STARS STRIPES.

Report: McGwire's name came up often in steroids probe

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MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2005

Security fears led to flag flap at school in Germany

Gelnhausen principal stopped flying Old Glory, but reaches deal with parents



Going downhill fast

U.S. Forces Europe Ski & Snowboard Championships wrapped up Sunday



More teams take next dance step

Tournament coverage Pages 37-39



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States

Prison guard hostage trial: An inmate charged with taking an Arizona prison guard hostage for 15 days plans defend himself in his trial beginning Monday - and says he will have the woman he is accused of raping "in shreds" when he questions her on the stand.

Jury selection begins this week for Ricky Wassenaar's trial in the longest U.S. prison age situation in decades. Acting own attorney will allow Wassenaar, 41, to directly question the woman he allegedly took

hostage and raped. Wassenaar and another inmate, Steven Coy, are accused of taking two guards hos-tage at the Arizona State Prison Complex-Lewis in Buckeye on Jan. 18, 2004.

ing CEO fired: The wife of ousted Boeing CEO Harry Stonecipher has filed for divorce, less than a week after the aerospace company's board forced him out for improper conduct related to an affair with a fen evecutive

Joan Stonecipher, 68, cited "irreconcilable differences" in papers filed Friday in Cook County, Ill., Circuit Court. The filing comes just a month after the couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

War on terrorism

French journalist: French authorities have received increasing contacts and information about a French journalist taken hosage in Iraq, Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin said Sunday.

Raffarin said the stepped-up communications offered cautious hope that Liberation newspaper reporter Florence Aubenas and Hussein Hanoun al-Saadi, her Iraqi interpreter, could be freed.

Turkish detainee: The U.S. lawyer for a Turkish man who has been held at the Guantanamo Bay detention camp in Cuba said Sunday that Turkish officials have told his client's family he would be freed.

Attorney Baher Azmy said that Turkish military officials called the mother of Murat Kurnaz on Saturday and informed her that her son was being flown to a U.S. military base in Turkey. The news comes days after Azmy told re-

porters in Germany, where Kurnaz was born, that his client said he had been abused while in Guantanamo.

World

West Bank settlements: Israel's Cabinet affirmed Sunday that it will dismantle 24 illegal West Bank settlement outposts, but did not give a deadline, and evaded decision on the fate of 81 more outposts, participants

During their weekly meeting, ministers were briefed on an official report that said successive governments helped build and expand 105 outposts over the past decade. The Cabinet adopted the report, including recommendations that new laws be passed to make it easier to dismantle outposts in

Pakistan rape victim: A journalist in eastern Pakistan said Sunday that he will pro-pose marriage to a rape victim who attracted international media attention after she went public with her ordeal



Funeral for Chicago judge's mother: Susan Lawrence, right, a friend of the Lewkow family, grieves outside Saturday's memorial service for Donna Humphrey, mother of U.S. District Judge Joan Lefkow, in Littleton, Colo. Humphrey was found shot execution style, along with Lefkow's husband, in the basement of Lefkow's Chicago home on Feb. 28. Although the man apparently responsible for the slayings has committed suicide, at least a dozen U.S. marshals were stationed around the church and a mobile police command center had been set up as precautions

Rana Mohammed Arshad 30 who works for a Lahore-based Urdu-language newspaper, said that in keeping with local tradi-

tions he, his mother and one of his brothers will travel to Mukhtar Mai's village to propose to her.

Mai drew international attention when she spoke about her rape in 2002 by several men in Meerwala, Pakistan. She was ordered raped by a council of village elders after her brother was accused of having sey with another



Tajikistan vote: Tajik voters went to the polls Sunday to fill three parliamentary seats still vacant after last month's elections

The first round of voting in the ex-Soviet republic was criticized by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe as falling short of democratic standards. It said authorities largely controlled the campaign and interfered with independent media

Chechen warlord killed: Security forces hunting down insurgents in Chechnya killed a rebel warlord Sunday, officials said Kantash Mansarov, whom the authorities

described as the coordinator of rebel undercover operations in the Chechen capital, Grozny, was reportedly killed while resisting arrest.

Serbian war crimes suspect: Serbia's government announced Sunday that another Serb suspect, a paramilitary leader accused of atrocities against Muslims during the Bosnian war, will surrender to the United Nations war crimes tribunal.

Gojko Jankovic, indicted by the Netherlands-based International Criminal Court for the former Vugoslavia has decided to give himself up after being on the run for more than five years, the authorities in Belgrade said.

Kyrgyzstan runoff election: Voters in Kyrgyzstan cast ballots on Sunday for parliamentary runoff elections amid a brewing controversy over whether the Central Asian country's longtime leader might seek to extend his rule beyond constitutional limits.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe said the first round of voting for the 75-member parliament fell short of international standards, noting instances of vote buying, questionable disqualification of candidates and interference with the media. The government has dismissed those charg-

Afghanistan plane crash: Afghan authorities have completed their search for the bodies of more than 100 people who died last month when an airliner slammed into a mountain during a snowstorm, an official said Sunday

Defense Ministry spokesman Mohammed Zahir Azimi also said the final death toll from the Feb. 3 crash could also rise to 106 two more than originally announced — because one or two small children were also feared among the passengers.

Nepal attacks: Nepal's communist insurgents on Sunday threatened to step up attacks on government security forces and said they would stage road blockades and strikes across Nepal.

The elusive rebel leader Prachanda said ne rebels would also follow up the regional blockades and protests with a 10-day nati wide strike beginning April 1. Prachanda, whose real name is Pushpa Kamal Dahal. said the action was called to protest King Gyanendra's Feb. 1 decision to impose emer gency rule, suspending most civil liberties. Stories and photos from The Associated Pres

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Security concerns lead to flag flap

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY Stars and Strines

GELNHAUSEN, Germany - Although it is a bedroom community. Coleman Barracks isn't swaddled in seclusion.

The green, fenced-in housing area borders the main street running through the small German city of



community: apart-ment blocks, gate guards, U.S. plated vehicles and a pedestrian stoplight for the school directly across "People know we

There are all the

are here, and have been for years," said Staff Sgt. Shawn Watson. many Yet when school started last fall, the new

principal believed a lower profile was in Gelnhausen Elementary School practically sits on the roadway, with the front

steps and flagpoles not far from the perimeter fence and curb So Essie Grant decided to stop flying the American flag in the name of security, a de-

cision that irked battle-hardened veterans such as Watson. "It's my flag," said Watson, adding he was "disgusted" by the move. "I watched

(fellow soldiers) die right in front of me in Iraq and Afghanistan

"I don't think an American flag flying is going to make a difference" in terms of se-



ausen Elementary School Principal Essie Grant's decision to no longer fly the American flag in front of the school has caused a flag flap. "It's different today," Grant says. A solution is in the works, however. Grant says a work order is in to have the pole relocated to the back of the school just beyond the chess board.

curity, Watson added.

ern Russia last fall

The flag flap has caused tension between Watson and some parents, though a solution in the works may help smooth things

Watson has accepted a parent's sugg tion to move the flagpole to the back of the school between the playground and park-

ing lot A work order is now pending.

"We do not want to draw too much attention to ourselves," said Grant, who then alluded to the deadly school siege in south-

The housing area is right across the street," she added. "Do you see a flag flying over there? We are just concerned about the safety of our children, and that's

the hottom line While the issue has caused friction between school officials and some parents, both sides share a profound respect for the

Grant and Watson used the word "pride" in describing what the banner represents. The controversy underscores the bal ance military communities are trying to strike in this post 9/11 world between patri-

otism and security.
"Flying the flag is important," said Gene Hindle, the Heidelberg School District safety and security officer, "but taking

care of the children is paramount."

Once the flagpole is relocated to the back of the school, Grant intends to renew the practice of allowing fifth-grade students to serve as the guardians of the flag.

For years, they have taken turns raising and lowering the flag each school day. The loss of that experience, Watson said, is one of the reasons why he and other par-

ents have complained. Marion Iliff, another concerned parent, wondered why it's taking so long to raise the flagnole at its new location.

Claudia Davenport, the parent who hatched the compromise, said she has no doubts the flagpole will be up soon.

Davenport noted that her daughter, Michaela, and other fifth graders are anxious to send Old Glory skyward. Said Davenport: "We are getting our flag back."

E-mail Kevin Dougherty at: doughertyk@mail.estripes.

USAFE wins safety prize for second year in a row

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER Stare and Strings

Safety is a top priority in every military

But the U.S. Air Forces in Europe headquarters had this year's best and most effective safety program overall across the

service among major commands. The command's safety office won the Secretary of the Air Force Safety Award for the second year in a row. The office

also won in 1999 Col. Walter Scales, the USAFE safety di-rector, said the command has put a tremendous amount of emphasis on airmen thinking about safety in everything they do, whether it is on the flight line or in their

personal vehicle. "We've a very good safety record, and we've been very pro-active," Scales said. Last year, the command launched Project SMART, a program which stresses the importance of safety through a serious of monthly themes. SMART is an acronym

that stands for Smartly Managing Awareness, Risk and Threats. The command also boasts the lowest major accident rate, or mishap rate among the major commands. The command has not had a "Class A mishap," or a major acci-

In addition to the major command award, Tech. Sgt. George Vara Jr., a weapons safety manager with the Ramstein Air Base-based 435th Air Base Wing, received the Air Force Nuclear Surety Outstanding Achievement Award.

USAFE, which is based at Ramstein, oversees 16 bases across Europe comprises 73,000 people, including about 26,000 active-duty airmen.

schonauers@mail.estripes.osd.mil

dent, in two years.

Work and play





Left: Gen. B.B. Bell, commander of U.S. Army Europe, addresses soldiers over lunch Saturday at Eagle Base, Bosnia-Herzegovina. While in Bosnia, Bell also met with the leadership 1 ON NATO'S Enduring Mission, Right: U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Steven Schook, commander of Enduring Mission, takes time to play some foosball with Sgt. Benjamin Chang of Task Force Orion, part of the Enduring Mission. Schook came from Camp Butmir to meet with Bell, but when Bell's arrival was delayed by an hour. Schook used that time to chat with soldiers.





Sgts. 1st Class James Kruczek and Dion Kruczek sing one of the 20 songs they wrote or compiled for a compact disc that tells the stories of soldiers on a deployment to Iraq. "These songs tell stories about courage and about the individual soldiers." James said.





1st Class Kruczek



1st Class Dion Kruczek

The Kruczeks have compiled songs for a CD that, when produced will benefit disabled veterans from Iraq deployments.

Job: Members of 1st Infantry Division Band's Enter Sandman rock hand

Age: James, 38: Dion, 39 Family: Children: Danielle. 6. and Alex. 4

1st ID couple sets soldiers' stories to music

BY RICK EMERT

Stars and Stripes

BAMBERG, Germany - During their year in Iraq that ended in February, husband and wife James and Dion Kruczek entertained the troops as part of 1st Infantry Division Band's Enter Sandman rock group

At the same time, the two were writing and compiling songs for a compact disc that would tell the story of a soldier's deployment to Iraq.

While Dion wrote about 11 songs for the project, the other nine were written by soldiers in Iraq and recorded by Dion and

The project began after the division chaplain, Chap. (Lt. Col.) Mike Lembke asked Dion to write a song for a service honoring soldiers who had died in Iraq, she said

"It was a good way for me to vent my feelings and try to do something positive," she said

Once the project really started moving, it gave the Kruczeks something to focus on during the deployment while not busy entertaining soldiers

"It became a way to do something posi-tive," Dion said. "Instead of just doing our one year of duty, we wanted to do something to further validate being away from our family. This project has turned my life around."

Another driving force in compiling the songs was to combat the negativity of news stories about sol-

in Irag. **44** Instead of just doing our

one year of duty, we wanted to do something to further validate being away from our family.

Sgt. 1st Class Dion Kruczek

just to see if he could give us some advice," James said. "I knew him from when we were both in the Army band

in the late '80s." The producer, Rogers Masson, eventually offered more than advice

company lyrics written by Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Mitchell, another band member,

for his wife. Another was for a band mem-

ber's husband who saw one of his fellow sol-

pieces from soldiers through their Web

site. www.dionkruczek.us. work is already

Although the Kruczeks are still seeking

under way to get a

big name country

artist to record the

songs. James con-

tacted a producer

who also happens to

be a former Army

band member. "I contacted him

diers killed by a roadside bomb, she said.

"My role in this project early on was primarily that of an advisor," Masson said in an e-mail "Dion and Jim have the vision and forward thinking that got this thing off the ground, and they contacted me to help carry it through to the market place.'

Masson's brother, Mai, Tim Masson, was injured in Iraq last year and is recuperating in a hospital in San Antonio, he said.

"My interest is clearly a strong personal one, and there are many reasons why I am committed to this project," Masson said. "I am a veteran and feel a responsibility to help fellow veterans. This project affords me the opportunity to do just that. Also, my father was a disabled veteran, so I have firsthand knowledge of what that means. If anyone thinks this project is not important, have them visit some troops in a VA hospital.

James and Dion want the album's proceeds to benefit disabled veterans.

"There have been other songs written about soldiers, but these songs are more accurate, more sincere because they are writ-ten by soldiers," Dion said. "For a lot of people, the war is all about how many soldiers have died in Iraq. It's not just about 1,500 soldiers who died. Every one of them had a story, and they should be remembered.

E-mail Rick Emert at: emertr@mail.estripes.osd.mi

Study cites problems in budgeting for Navy ships

PORTLAND, Maine - A General Accounting Office study cites problems by the Navy in budgeting for ship construction that could affect Maine and Mississippi shipyards that are in line to build the Navy's next-generation destroyer.

The new report by the investiga tive arm of Congress found that cost overruns could hinder efforts to modernize the fleet as money for new ships is earmarked to pay for vessels approved years earli-

James said

every story you

"It seemed that

read was some-thing bad about

what was happen-

ing there and that

things were miser-

"These songs tell

stories about cour-

he said

age and about the individual soldiers.

to remain anonymous, Dion said.

While Dion wrote more than half of the

songs, soldiers the Kruczeks met in their

travels also contributed songs, including

some from Lembke and from an Austra-

lian special operations soldier who wished

In one song Dion wrote the music to ac-

"From fiscal years 2001 to 2005, 5 to 14 percent of the Navy's ship construction budget which totalled about \$52 billion over the five-year period, went to pay for cost growth for ships funded in prior years," the report said.
"This reduces the buying power of the budget for current construction and can slow the pace of modernization

"The Navy is in the early stages of buying a number of advanced ships, including the Virginia class submarine, DD(X) destroyer, CVN 21 aircraft carrier and Littoral Combat Ship." the report added

"The Navy's ability to buy these ships as scheduled will depend on its ability to control cost growth."

Maine's Bath Iron Works and Ingalls Shipyard in Mississippi are scheduled to build the DD(X).

The Navy has drastically scaled back construction of the new ship and has announced plans to save money by having the yards take part in a winner-take-all competition for the program.

In its study, the GAO assessed eight ships under construction or just completed, including a destroyer built at Ingalls and one built at BIW. It found that Congress has appropriated \$2.1 billion so far to cover cost overruns on the eight ships, and estimated that the number could exceed \$3 billion.

A major issue, said the GAO, was that the Navy doesn't accu-rately estimate the costs for the ships, so extra funds must be appropriated in following years

A spokeswoman for Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, said her office would be talking with the Navy about the GAO's recommendations that it establish realistic estimates, prices and budgets.

Former foes meet again for Iwo Jima anniversary

U.S. and Japanese veterans pay tribute to those who died in battle 60 years ago

BY FRED ZIMMERMAN Stars and Strines

IWO JIMA, Japan

en once determined to kill one another met again this weekend, but this time in peace at a ceremony to pay tribute to warriors who never left this des-

olate island. More than 60 U.S. veterans of the Battle of Iwo Jima and a hand ful of their Jana. nese counterparts met at the Re-union of Honor

monument on a hill overlooking Yellow Beach, where many U.S. Marines landed on Feb. 19, 1945 - the first time during the war that U.S. ground forces set foot on Japanese soil

This year was the 60th anniversary of one of World War II's bloodiest battles. More than 100,000 U.S. troops fought to take the island, suffering more than 26,000 casualties including more than 6,800 deaths. Fewer than 1,000 of the 22,000 Japanese defenders survived.

Iwo Jima was strategically important to the U.S. bombing campaign of Japan. Once taken, fighter planes could be based there to escort bombers on missions returning

could land there, possibly saving their crews from crashing or ditching at sea. By the war's end, 2.251 B-29s with 24.761 crewmen made emergency landings on the island

During the ceremony, retired t. Gen. Larry Snowden, who Lt. Gen. fought on Iwo Jima, said the Japanese defenders fought to protect homeland

to remember. 77

Gen. Michael Hagee

Marine Corps commandant

speaking at the Iwo Jima

memorial ceremonies

44 Our first duty is while the Marines "fought to bring the end of the war and go home

Snowden added that "hatred was the motivating force years but peace should - and that's what hap-

friendship pened in the years since."

Gen. Michael Hagee, Marine Corps commandant, said during the ceremony, "Our first duty is to remember.

In World War II's four years, Hagee said, 353 Medals of Honor were awarded - 27 of them from actions during the 36 days of fighting on Iwo Jima. He recalled Adm. Chester Nimitz's words in praising those who fought that battle, saying, "Uncommon valor was indeed a common virtue.

Kiyoshi Endo, the chairman of the Japanese Iwo Jima Veteran's Association, also spoke about remembering the past. Endo served as North Iwo Jima Division com-



"Truly, memories of the tragic Battle of Iwo Jima have faded away through generations," Endo said. "Our responsibilities and du-ties are to dedicate the rest of our lives to passing our memories on to our next generations so that a tragic battle of this kind would

Pacific

While all spoke of the tragedy of the battle, many also talked about the friendship that has been built since. Hagee said grandchildren of men who fought on the island as foes now stand together as allies in Iraq and elsewhere throughout the world Former Japanese Prime Minis-

ter Yoshiro Mori said the two countries are working together for world peace and security. "I believe that our cooperation is a great tribute to the spirits of Japanese and American soldiers who died on this island," said Mori, who said he learned much about peace by witnessing the veterans gather in friendship. After the speeches, U.S. and

Japanese officials placed wreaths at the foot of the monument. Japa-nese officials made the symbolic offering to the fallen of pouring water over the marker. Rifles cracked in a 21-gun salute. The assembly then observed a 30-second moment of silence; the only sounds were of the wind blowing the grass and distant waves pounding the black beach.

As have so many other such gatherings on the desolate Pacific island, the ceremony ended with the echoing of taps. E-mail Fred Zimmerman at: rimmermanf@pstripes.osd.mil



Elmer Rome stands in silence as taps is played Saturday at the 60th anniversary commemoration of the Battle of Iwo Jima on the island. As a Navy Seabee with the 133rd Naval Construction Battalion. Rome landed in the second wave on Iwo Jima. He called the black sand beach home for 17 days.

Seabee shares island memories with family

IWO JIMA Japan - On Saturday. Elmer Rome stood again on the black sand beach of Iwo Jima that he called home for 17 days in

Sixty years ago, he first set foot on the island as a young petty officer third class with the 133rd Naval Construction Battalion. The unit, attached to the 4th Marine Division, was in the second wave of troops to land on the is- just eight minutes after the first wave. Rome said they had to jump over the landing crafts' sides and wade to shore, but he doesn't remember the water being too deep.

"We were 1,014 guys who had no idea of what we were getting into." he said. "I saw all the ones that were killed or maimed lying there on the beach," Rome said. "I was never scared and never hurt ... I was too focused on my The U.S. forces were taking so

many casualties that every time he and his fellow Seabees ran supplies to the front, they returned carrying stretchers bearing the wounded. He said a photo of him carrying a stretcher was on a 1945 Look magazine cover

After living on the beach for 17

days, Rome said, the Seabees moved almost directly across the island, where they built water tanks at a desalination site. He also helped build some barracks near the site.
Rome had returned to Iwo

Jima just once, in 1995, when he brought a daughter to the com-memoration. This year, he brought all 10 of his children. Rome's children said that grow

ing up, they knew little of what their father did on Iwo Jima.

"He just wouldn't talk about it, said daughter Mary-Anne Osborne. "Until he came back for the 50th anniversary. Then he would talk about it occasionally. Son T.J. said he'd learned

things from his father this past week that he'd never heard before - such as how he went to the cemetery to visit the graves of seven friends who had died.

T.J. said the family was able to get their hands on some of his history. They found and purchased two copies of the Look magazine issue with him on the cover. "I think they paid about \$10," said the elder Rome.

T.J. replied, "It was a lot more than \$10, dad. But you don't need

to worry about how much it was." - Fred Zimmerman

4 Fort Knox drill sergeants charged with abusing recruits

The Associated Press

Members of the Japanese delegation pour water over the Reunion of

Honor monument Saturday during the 60th anniversary commemoration

FORT KNOX, Ky. - Four Army drill sergeants were charged Friday with abusing recruits who were allegedly slammed into lockers and pulled down a hallway by their ankles. The Army said the recruits also were pushed, slapped and kicked

The alleged abuse began when the re-cruits reported for duty Feb. 3 and ended

five days later, according to the Fort Knox public affairs office The drill sergeants were investigated

after their battalion commander received reports of abuse from soldiers in an adja-

Sgt. 1st Class David H. Price, 36; Sgt. 1st Class Ricky L. Stauffer, 35; Staff Sgt. Michael G. Rhoades, 33; and Staff Sgt.

Bryan G. Duncan, 26; were charged with maltreatment of soldiers and obstruction of justice. Price faces an additional charge of violation of a lawful regulation

Each is to have a special court-martial, but no court dates were immediately set. The maximum punishment is a year confinement, forfeiture of two-thirds pay per month for a year, and a reduction to the

When reached by telephone, Stauffer declined to comment. Phone messages left for Price and Duncan were not immediately returned Friday, and a telephone number for Rhoades could not be located.

All were assigned to Company E, 1st Battalion, 81st Armor Regiment, part of Fort Knox's 1st Armor Training Brigade.

Two U.S. contractors killed in Iraq bombing

GI gunned down in separate attack; Kurds, Shiites near completion on power-sharing deal

BY TODD PITMAN

BAGHDAD - Two American security contractors were killed and a third wound ed by a roadside bomb south of the Iraqi capital on Sunday while Kurdish leaders said they were nearing completion on a deal with the dominant Shiite-led alliance on forming a coalition government at this week's National Assembly.

The three contractors were working for Blackwater Security, a North Carolinabased contracting firm that provides security for U.S. State Department officials in Iraq. They were attacked Saturday on the main road to Hillah, south of Baghdad, U.S. Embassy spokesman Bob Callahan said

A U.S. soldier also was gunned down late Saturday in a small arms fire attack in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, the U.S. command said Sunday

Foreign contractors, too, are often targeted by anti-U.S. guerrillas. At least 232 American civilian security and reconstruction contractors were killed in Iraq up to the end of 2004, according to the Washington-based Brookings Institution.

The State Department said it was "deeply saddened" by the deaths of the two contractors and the wounding of another.

"These men were assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Iraq to protect American diplomats. They played a vital role in our mission to bring democracy, and opportunity to the people of Iraq," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said in a statement.

The Blackwater employees were in the last vehicle in a four-vehicle convoy and were traveling to Hillah from Baghdad Callahan said. A foreign security official said they were in a black Chevrolet Suburban. The road south traverses an area



Iraqi tribal leaders attend a conference on regional federalism Sunday in Baghdad. In political developments, the country's main Shiite and Kurdish coalitions were putting the finishing touches on an agreement they hope to sign on Monday forming a coalition government, in advance of the National Assembly convening on Wednesday.

known as the "Triangle of Death" because of the frequency of insurgent attacks. Blackwater said the contractors, who

were not identified, were attacked on a highway just southeast of Baghdad's airport. The company said the wounded emplovee's injuries were not life-threatening.

In March 2004, four Blackwater employees were killed in the turbulent city of Falluiah, and two of the corpses were hung from a bridge, triggering a bloody three-week siege of the restive Sunni Mus-

lim city west of Baghdad soon afterward. Two Iragis also were killed and five wounded Sunday when a roadside bomb missed a U.S. convoy in southeastern Baghdad, said Dr. Ali Karim of Kindi hospital, where the casualties were brought.

In the north, Kurdish leaders said they would go ahead with a deal they made with the Shiite-dominated United Iraqi Alliance last week to help form a coalition government when the 275-member National Assembly convenes on Wednesday.

The Kurds won 75 seats in the Assembly during Jan. 30 elections

The alliance won 140 seats and needs Kurdish support to assemble the two-thirds

U.S. deaths in Iraq

As of Saturday, at least 1,513 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1 153 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department. The figures include four

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, eight; Slovakia. three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each.

The latest deaths reported by the mili-

No deaths reported. The latest identifications reported by

the military:

No identifications reported.

majority to elect a president, who will then give a mandate to the prime minister.

Talks between us did not fail. Both delegations went back to review the negotiations," said Fuad Masoum, a member of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

Interim Deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh, a Kurd, said the two sides were very close to reaching a comprehensive agreement, including the makeup of the coalition government and denied reports that their power-sharing deal had collapsed.

Reports: U.S. informed about rescue at last minute

ROME - American officials in Iraq were told that an Italian intelligence officer was there to free a hostage — but only at the very last minute, shortly before U.S. troops opened fire on their vehicle, killing the officer and wounding the woman. Italian media reported Sunday

Several Italian dailies cited a report now in the hands of Rome prosecutors by Maj. Gen. Mario Marioli, an Italian who is the coaforces' second-in-command. In it, Marioli said U.S. authorities were aware that the agent, Nicola Calipari, and another officer were in Iraq, but only he knew why. He said Calipari had told him not to tell the Americans they were there to collect a hostage

Italian media have sneculated that the reason for not telling the Americans was due to U.S. opposition to Italy's policy of negotiating

with kidnappers. However, Marioli also said that he finally told an American officer with him at the Baghdad airport - a certain "Capt. Green" after getting a call that the mission had been a success and that the two agents and freed journalist Giuliana Sgrena were on their way back, according to dailies Corriere della Sera, Il Messaggero and La Stampa.

Families defend GIs' actions in shooting

BY CRAIG GORDON

Newsday

WASHINGTON - Families of a New York Army National Guard unit are defending its actions in the checkpoint shooting of an Italian journalist and intelligence officer, with one nervous father saying his son told him "anybody in that unit would have done the same thing.

"Nobody takes any chances," said William Bam-bino of Wantagh, N.Y., who spoke to his son, Pfc. Phillip Bambino, two days after the March 4 checkpoint shooting, though his son wasn't involved. "If omebody doesn't heed a warning, they don't give them a second chance. A second chance is too

Pfc. Bambino is part of Manhattan's 69th Infantry Regiment of the 42nd Infantry Division, which was on duty when a car carrying a freed Italian journalist and her rescuer came upon a U.S. military checkpoint on Baghdad's notorious airport

U.S. soldiers say they gave a series of warnings but fired when the speeding car didn't stop, wounding the journalist and killing an Italian intelligence

agent. The Italian government charges that the soldiers opened fire without warning and that the car was traveling at moderate speed. The Bush administration has pledged a full investigation.

As word of the shooting has filtered home in media reports some familiar and the first shooting has filtered home in media reports.

media reports, some families of the "Fighting 69th' say the troops are nervous. Some worry that a witch-hunt mentality could arise in the probe due to Italian calls for answers, even as the troops tell of the intense pressures and split-second de sion-making needed to guard a route targeted by insurgents.

Just two days before the shooting, the 69th had lost two soldiers from Queens in a roadside bomb attack. They are among more than a dozen mem-bers of the First Battalion, 69th Regiment that have died in combat since arriving in October.
"They're all on edge," William Bambino said of
his son, 23, and his fellow soldiers. Anti-U.S. at-

tacks are "an everyday occurrence.

acks are an everyday occurrence.

Some families worry it will be harder for soldiers to do their jobs for fear of being second-guessed. Already, human rights groups have stepped up criticism that U.S. checkpoint guards are too quick to shoot amid this and other recent friendly-fire slayings.

Calipari was killed March 4 when ILS troops fired on the vehicle carrying him and the other two Italians at a checkpoint about

766 yards from the airport. It is not clear how much time went by between the time when told the Americans about the mission and the shooting, or whether the tragedy could have been avoided if U.S. authorities had been better in-

After the shooting, the U.S. military said that the vehicle carrying the Italians was speeding and re-fused to stop, and that a U.S. patrol tried to warn the driver with hand and arm signals, by flashing white lights and firing shots in front of the car and into the car's engine block

Italy has said the shooting was an accident, but has also disputed parts of the account given by the Americans.

The U.S.-led coalition in Iraq has ordered an investigation into the shooting, with Italian officials participation.



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New baby a special delivery

U.S. soldiers help mother give birth on Black Hawk

BY KENT HARRIS Stars and Stripes

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — The population of Afghani-stan grew slightly Saturday, thanks in part to a pair of Black Hawk crews and a 25-year-old flight medic from Wiesbaden, Germany

Army Spc. Kyle Storbakken helped an Afghan mother deliva healthy 6½-pound baby while aboard the Black Hawk flying to the U.S. military base Salerno

"This was my first delivery." Storbakken said via a phone interview from Salerno, a remote base a few hours away by helicopter from Bagram.

It was the first such delivery that anyone associated with the current medical mission in coun try had knowledge of. Col. John Giddens, the commander of the 249th General Hospital at Bagram, said most Afghans the hospital sees are those critically injured by mines, accidents or attacks by anti-coalition forces.

"It's very nice to have a joyful

emergency coming through our doors," he said.

Peer Mullah Khan, the baby's father, is a leader of the village next to the U.S. outpost at Skhin. Through a translator, he said he came to U.S. troops for help when his wife started struggling during

Giving birth isn't a new experience for his wife, Melawa. The haby girl, who hasn't been named is the couple's 14th child. Two have died, but the others ranging from the newest addition to a 19-year old girl - make for a large family. Two sons currently serve in the Afghan army.

American officials said they agreed to take the mother and father aboard the aircraft because it appeared that the placenta was between the baby and the birth canal, potentially putting both lives at risk. Fortunately, that turned out to not be the case

In order to save time, one helicopter was dispatched from Salerno to Skhin to pick up the mother while another left Bagram to fly to Salerno. While the first helicopter was on its way back from the

village to Salerno, the mother gave birth.

assigned to the 159th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) at Wiesbaden, said he couldn't recall any specific emotions he had while helping deliver the baby

"I guess you don't really think about what's going on until it's all over," he said

Capt. Richard Mangini, the executive officer of the 68th Medical Company, of which Storbakken is a part, said in-air births are a rarity. And it was even more special because of who was delivering the baby

"He's our youngest and probably most inexperienced medic in terms of time on the job," he said. Storbakken said he's already re ceived several good-natured jabs by his peers

"Some of the guys have been calling me daddy," he said. The real father and mother

were expected to travel back to Salerno from Bagram on Monday with the newest member of their family.



Some of the staff have adopt-

ed Abbasi as one of their own. Gainer, of Cary, Ill., cradles Abbasi during the night shift,

while Spc. Joy Maine of Sno-homish, Wash., handles the

felt really bad because he looked really sick," Maine

said. "Sometimes I'll take him

outside for fresh air to get him out of his bed."

a little party for Abbasi, his third birthday. His gifts includ-

ed a big, red stuffed bear,

some clothes and other good-

mander of the Warhorse-based 3rd Brigade Combat

Team, said the request to trans-

port Abbasi to Washington for treatment was a good use of U.S. taxpayer dollars.

"With all the dollars going

into the overall fight, the dol-

lars spent to take care of this

boy is less than a drop in the bucket," Salazar said. "But it

Col. Steven Salazar, com-

On Thursday the staff threw

The first time I saw him I

Peer Mullah Khan stands with his wife, Melawa, and their newborn daughter in a 249th General Hospital ward at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. The baby was born Saturday in a U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopter.

tients, including 112 Iraqis.

The Teal clinic is part of Company C, 203rd Forward Support Battalion, part of the 42nd Infantry Divi-

sion's Task Force Liberty. Its Level 2 care capabilities

enable the staff to treat everyday sick calls, sprains and strains, dehydration and some casualties of war.

three weeks of operation, the staff treated 392 pa-

day care.

It has operating and trauma rooms. In its first

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Army doctor trying to bring boy to U.S.

Stars and Stripes

BAQOUBA, Iraq - Abbasi isn't like most 3-year-He hardly ever smiles or talks. Abbasi often runs

a fever of 106 degrees, and when he lavs down on his back, the outline of his swollen spleen can be seen pushing through his stomach

"I was with him the one time he smiled," said Spc. Pen-nev Gainer. "It was my happiest moment since he has been Qais Abbas, better known

as Abbasi, is suffering from something that can't be pinpointed by the Iraqi doctors in Bagouba or the American ones at Forward Operating Base Warhorse So Dr. (Capt.) Matthew J.

Carter, a pediatrician at the Teal Medical Aid Station, is pulling strings to have Abbasi flown for treatment to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. Abbasi, the son of a coali

tion-friendly tribal sheik, or village leader, is thought to be suffering from leukemia or another disease that has caused his spleen and liver to swell and his blood counts to be dangerously low

gives his lungs less room to Dr. (Capt.) Matthew J. Carter holds Qais Abassi's enlarged spleen every breath he takes.

states for diagnosis and treatment has to be justified to the State Department or Defense Department or both

'We don't want to advertise that we can help every kid in town," he said. Doing so, Carter said, would undercut the Iraqis' own medical providers.
"But this is a very sick kid, and we care," he added.

Carter said he hoped a decision would be made within a week or two.

work, Carter said, making the Abbas, better known as Abbasi. Carter is boy work a little harder for trying to get approval for Abbasi to be flown to Washington, D.C., for diagnosis of an Transporting Abbasi to the undetermined medical condition.

means a lot to the boy and a lot to a lot of people in (the prov-ince of) Diyala." Abbasi is one of 22 children of Sheik Ahmed Abdun al-Ahmeri of Bani Saad, located between Baghdad and Baqouba. He said he feels his son is part of his own

body and is ready to do anything to make him feel "I trust in God first," said Abdun, a Shiite, through a translator. "And then I trust the American physi-

cians to help my son be better. F-mail Charlie Coon at: coonc@mail.estrines.osd.mil

Rights group: Abuses by U.S. date back to '02

BY VERENA DOBNIK The Associated Press

NEW YORK - Unreleased U.S. Army reports detailing the beating deaths of two Afghan men at the hands of American soldiers show that military prison abuses began in Afghanistan in 2002, and were part of a systemat-ic pattern of mistreatment, a human rights representative said

More than two dozen American soldiers face possible criminal prosecution — and one already is charged with manslaughter — in the deaths at the main U.S. detention facility in Bagram, just north

of the Afghan capital of Kabul. As documented by the Army's Criminal Investigation Command, the men died a year before the photographed horrors at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq, according to John Sifton, the Afghanistan researcher for the New York-based Human Rights Watch

In a phone interview, Sifton said his group had obtained 20 pages of electronically scanned Army reports.

The American Civil Liberties Union sued to obtain the case files under the Freedom of Information Act, but the Army with-held portions of the records because of an ongoing investigation and possible charges.

On Saturday, a Pentagon spokesman, Lt. Col. Jeremy Martin, would say only that the cases from 2002 "were thoroughly investigated and people were punished appropriately

"The Bush Administration and the Pentagon describe the abuse problems as isolated incidents, not systematic, not part of a plan. he evidence shows otherwise." Sifton said, "Far from being isolated incidents, these beatings were part of a pattern of abuse

Members of the 519th Military Intelligence Battalion who set up intelligence operations at the Bagram facility did the same at the Abu Ghraib prison.

The two Afghan detainees died in December 2002 - a week apart - as reported in Army memos, with updates detailing their fate after they were can tured by Afghan forces and handed to the U.S. military.

There were several other deaths of Afghans in American custody before December 2002, Sifton said, "and we want more information.

"It's amazing," he said. "Nobody has been punished for this. "The command has recommended that 28 people be prosecuted for this, but only two have

been charged so far."
The unreleased Army documents detail U.S. military investigations of the deaths of a man named Mullah Habibullah, about 30, and another identified only as Dilawar, a 22-year-old taxi driver with a 2-year-old daughter, according to Sifton.

The Army has publicly acknowledged the two deaths and announced in October that up to 28 U.S. soldiers face possible charges in connection with what ware ruled homicides

U.S. ready to face criticism of prison abuses by military

U.N. rights meeting

to begin, Page 11

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The annual meeting of the U.N. Human Rights Commission opens on Monday in Geneva with the United States prepared to confront critics ready to highlight the abuses by U.S. military personnel of Iraqi, Afghan and other prisoners. In previous

United States has been free the rights shortcomings

of other countries at commission meetings.

But continuing disclosures about prisoner mistreatment dating back to last spring have required the administration to adopt a defensive strategy for the coming six-week conclav

As part of a damage control plan, U.S. delegates have devised a pro-active approach for the meeting. They will point to American efforts to hold accountable those responsible for behavior that the administration acknowledges has been reprehensible,

U.S. officials say.

The scandals have triggered a spate of investigations and some low-level personnel have been punished. But thus far, senior military officers and civilian Pentagon officials have escaped blame Earlier this year, Cuba and Zimbabwe served on a five-nation working

group signed to set part of the agenda this year's meeting.

Cuba tried to get fellow working group members to get the U.S. prisoner abuse scandal on the agenda but the effort fell short by a 3-1 vote, with Zimbabwe abstaining. This, however, will not prevent that issue from being aired during the commission's deliberations.

Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque raised the possibili-ty last week that Cuba will introduce a resolution at the commiscondemning the United States for prisoner mistreatment.



Johnny Spann, father of slain CIA officer Mike Spann, pauses at his son's gravesite at Arlington National Ceme

Slain CIA agent's father hunts for answers about son's death

By JEFFREY MCMURRAY The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Va. - Johnny Spann stood in gently falling snow and wistfully recalled the day his son, CIA officer Johnny Micheal "Mike" Spann, lingered among the tombstones at Arlington National Cemetery, studying each inscription and testing his sister Tanya's patience

"Mike, let's go," she implored. "They're all the

"No, Tanya, they're not," the younger Spann replied. "There are stories behind them It is Mike Spann's story that draws Johnny Spann

to Arlington now. There is no greater objective

for the grieving father these days than gathering the facts behind the uprising on Nov. 25, 2001, at the makeshift prison in Afghanistan where his son became the first American casualty of the Afghan war

Spann, a 56-year-old real tate company owner from Winfield. Ala., visited Mike Spann's grave last month for the third time in as many days. The elder Spann placed flowers and contemplated the chain of events that put his son in a na-

tional cemetery. Upon returning to his rental car at the roadside, he wiped tears from his eyes.

"Even after four years, it doesn't get any easier,"

Articulate and folksy, with combed-back hair that is two shades of gray. Spann thumbs through a sheaf of documents and explains his son's last living moments with methodical calm. It is the same trait he displayed daily at the trial of John Walker Lindh.

the American fighting alongside the Taliban Spann is conducting his own investigation into the origins of the riot at the prison in Mazar-e-Sharif where suspected Taliban supporters were held.

U.S. government agencies, Spann said, are not inclined to piece together the entire story

By investigating for himself, "No lies get told and nothing gets covered up," he said. "I've got more at

but they have. I want to know."

During his visit to Washington, Spann shared with The Associated Press a videotape that shows the two hours leading up to the fateful riot.

Spann contends the last two minutes of footage prove the uprising began with a planned grenade attack inside the prison building rather than a spontaneous scuffle outside where his son was interviewing prisoners, including Lindh.

The distinction could be critical in Lindh's quest to get clemency for his 20-year prison term. One of the most serious charges against Lindh was that the uprising was planned the night before, yet he did not warn Spann

At trial, Lindh claimed no knowledge of the riot plot. The judge seemed to agree. If there were evidence that Lindh was responsible for the younger Spann's death, the judge said, then a plea bargain would not have been accepted that spared Lindh

more serious charges, such as murder or treason. Spann's father is convinced that such evidence exists. He refers to Lindh as "hard core al-Qaida" and says if Lindh really wanted to help a fellow American, he would have snoken up that morning

Because he did not, Spann contends, Lindh was complicit in the younger Spann's death. Some day, the father is hoping to prove this legally, in an at-

tempt to get Lindh's plea bargain thrown out.

An intelligence official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said the circumstances surrounding the incident at the prison were reviewed. The offi

cial said some prisoners burst out of the building fir-ing weapons while Spann and a colleague were interviewing prisoners outside. Spann said the doctors told him that his son

charged toward the prison building - right into a trap — when the grenade went off Later, Spann said, he reviewed autopsy reports

that showed his son had two bullet wounds to the head. That indicates a method of death co with an execution-style slaying, Spann said.

'That doesn't sound like two people in a fight getting shot," Spann said. "That sounds like one guy is on his knees or something getting shot.'

Two Marines wounded

KABUL, Afghanistan - Militants armed with rockets and machine guns ambushed Marines patrolling in eastern Afghanistan, wounding two of the American troops, the military said Sunday.

The patrol came under attack on Saturday in an area north of

the city of Jalalabad and close to the Pakistani border, the U.S. military said. The assailants quickly retreated, it said.

The two injured Marines continued with their mission after treatment at the scene for shrapnel wounds

U.S. and Afghan government troops clash regularly with militants in southern and eastern Afghanistan, where Taliban-led rebels have maintained a stubborn insurgency since 2001.

While attacks have declined in recent months, Taliban officials have vowed to step up their cam-paign with the melt of the winter snow, despite high-profile peace overtures from U.S. commanders and Afghan leaders.

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IN THE WORLD

Pope leaves Rome hospital

BY AIDAN LEWIS The Associated Press

ROME - With thousands cheering him on, Pope John Paul II returned to the Vatican on Sunday, two weeks after undergoing throat surgery to ease his breathing problems and hours after greeting pilgrims in a raspy voice that raised hopes he would fully recover

The 84-year-old pope crossed himself just before he left Rome's Gemelli Polyclinic hospital in a gray Mercedes minivan with tinted windows rather than in the glass-paneled popemobile he used after a previous hospitalization last month.

Patients in robes ventured out onto their balconies to bid the

pope farewell, and cries of "Viva il Papa!" ("Long live the pope!") were heard as the van made the trip back to the Holy See

Earlier Sunday, the pope spoke just a few words to the faithful gathered beneath his 10th-floor hospital suite, waving and making the sign of the cross with a steady hand.

"Dear brothers and sisters, thank you for your visit," he said, reading from a sheet of paper. "To everyone, have a good Sun-day and a good week."

It was the first time since his Feb. 24 operation to insert a breathing tube in his windpipe that John Paul addressed the faithful in remarks carried live. In three previous appearances, the pope had remained silent.

announcing his release made clear that the pope was not cured but was well enough to continue

his recovery back at St. Peter's. The Holy See had said last week that John Paul would be released in time for Holy Week celebrations, which begin on March 20 with Palm Sunday and culminate a week later with Easter.
The Holy See did not say wheth-

er the breathing tube had been removed or replaced with another type designed to make it easier for him to speak. Its next health update was expected on Monday. The pope's speaking difficulties are complicated by Parkinson's disease, raising concerns over John Paul's ability to communicate and guide the world's 1

billion Roman Catholics.



Pope John Paul II waves Sunday as he arrives at the Vatican after ring Gemelli Polyclinic hospital, in Rome. Seated behind him is Sister Luisa. The pontiff had been hospitalized with a breathing crisis.

Europeans probe CIA role in transferring suspects for torture past year into renditions believed to have

BY CRAIG WHITLOCK

The Washington Pos

MILAN, Italy - A radical Egyptian cleric known as Abu Omar was walking to a Milan mosque for noon prayers in February 2003 when he was grabbed on the sidewalk by two men, sprayed in the face with chemicals and stuffed into a van. He hasn't been seen since.

Milan investigators, however, appear to be close to identifying his kidnappers. Last month, officials showed up at Aviano Air Base in northern Italy and demanded records of any American planes that had flown into or out of the joint U.S.-Italian military installation around the time of the abduction. They also asked for logs of vehicles that had entered the base.

Italian authorities suspect the Egyptian was the target of a CIA-sponsored operation known as rendition, in which terrorism suspects are forcibly taken for interrogation to countries where torture is prac-

The Italian probe is one of three official investigations that have surfaced in the

taken place in Western Europe. Although the CIA usually carries out the operations with the help or blessing of friendly local intelligence agencies, law enforcement authorities in Italy, Germany and Sweden are examining whether U.S. agents might have broken local laws by detaining terrorist sus-pects on European soil and subjecting them to abuse or maltreatment.

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Some say U.N. rights commission needs reform to regain credibility

BY SAM CAGE

The Associated Press

GENEVA - The U.N. Human Rights Commission must reform itself to restore its sinking credibility, say rights groups who accuse the worst-offending countries of using their membership in the agency to protect each other from condemnation.

"The commission has become a refuge for governments like Sudan, which should be in the dock rather than on the top U.N. rights body," said Kenneth Roth, executive director of the New York-based Human Rights Watch

The II N commission — which starts its annual six-week session Monday — must address long-standing problems, in particular that some of its 53 member states "routinely resort to double standards in addressing country situations," officials of Amnesty International said

been suggested, including extending participation in the watchdog agency to all U.N. members, or excluding those with poor records of their own

Under U.N. rules, members are picked by regional groups. Current member states that have been criticized for their records include China, Cuba, Nepal, Rus-

sia and Zimbabwe. "The commission must focus on protecting human rights, instead of blocking criticism of members that commit serious rights abuses," Roth told report-

ers last week A high-level U.N. panel has reported that the commission's ability to promote respect for human rights "has been undermined by

eroding credibility." About half the commission's current members will attend this session "not to promote human rights, but to undermine them," and this is reducing the credibili-ty of the whole United Nations organization, Roth said

"There is a question of whether the commission in its current form is a viable method of protecting human rights," Roth told re-

porters. The most important issue at this year's meeting is the threat to human rights posed by governanti-terror campaigns,

Roth said. Campaigners called on the commission to condemn treatment of detainees by the United States and to ask that Washington give independent monitors access to terrorism suspects. Human Rights Watch is asking the commission to appoint a monitor with a three-year mandate to address

terror and counter-terror issues. "Exclusion of evidence (obtained through torture) is another matter we hope the commission will give due attention to," Amnesty's Peter Splinter said.



A communist supporter holds a poster addressed to President Bush during a demonstration Sunday against the Syrian withdrawal of troops from Lebanon.

No schedule yet for Syrian troops to exit Lebanon

BY HUSSEIN DAKROUB The Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon - Syria has withdrawn nearly a third of its troops from Lebanon, a senior officer said Sunday, but the Lebanese foreign minister said a date for a complete withdrawal would not be set until a meeting of the military leadership of the two countries scheduled for April 7

Meanwhile, a pro-Syrian rally organized by Hezbollah drew at least 100,000 protesters in the southern market town of Na-batiyeh. They burned Israeli flags and waved posters of Syrian President Bashar Assad - the second such rally the militant Shiite Muslim group has sponsored in a week.

The senior Syrian officer said about 4.000 soldiers had crossed the border into Syria since the pullout began on Tuesday and the remaining 10,000 were in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley.

"Another 4,000 soldiers in Lebanon's central mountains have redeployed to the Bekaa region. This is in addition to 6,000 troops already stationed in the Bekaa the military official said on condition of anonymity. He said the fate of the 10,000 troops remaining in the Bekaa would be dis-cussed by the April 7 military commission.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Mahmoud Hammoud also said the joint military commission would set the "duration, time and location in these matters" Hammoud did not mention a specific date for the meeting, but the officer said it was to be held on April

Hammoud made his remarks after meeting with U.N. envoy Terje Roed-Larsen in Beirut, a day after Roed-Larsen had visit-

President Bush, who repeated-ly has called for a full Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon, wants Syria to move out before Lehanon's parliamentary elections scheduled to take place in April

and May.

Asked if the final withdrawal

could take place before the elections, Hammoud said it was up to the joint military commission to

Iran: Europe going too slowly on nuke talks

BY TAREK AL-ISSAWI The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran - Iran said Sunday its nuclear talks with Europe were moving too slowly, adding that it didn't rule out negotiations with Washington as long as America recognizes Tehran's right to a peaceful nuclear program

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi said a permanent halt of Iran's nuclear activities was out of the question but said it was not yet ready to de-clare the "complicated and difficult" talks with Europeans a failure.

"Talks with Europe have not met our satisfaction et," Asefi told reporters. "The talks are taking longer than we expected."

Iranian officials have previously accused European negotiators of wasting time and not making proposals that conform to the Iranian bottom line — that it will that conform to the Iranian bottom line develop peaceful nuclear technology The crux of the negotiations. Asefi said, involves

securing European approval for a nuclear program built with guarantees that the technology won't be diverted toward weapons Washington insists Tehran's uranium enrichment

program is aimed at developing a bomb, not merely providing an alternative energy source. "We are not seeking nuclear weapons," Asefi said

"We announce again that nuclear weapons have no place in our defense and security doctrine.

Talks between Iran and Britain, Germany and France, who negotiate on behalf of the European Union, ended without result last week. The two sides have agreed to meet again March 23.

Asefi said Iran might agree to direct negotiations with the United States if Washington acknowledged Tehran's right to develop nuclear technology, Otherwise, U.S. entry into the negotiations would likely cause them to fail.

On Saturday, Asefi rejected U.S. overtures aimed at coaxing Tehran to drop its nuclear ambitions.

The mild concessions, announced earlier by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, include dropping opposition to Iran's application for member-ship in the World Trade Organization and allowing the sale of some spare parts for civilian aircraft. National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley insist-

ed the United States is not offering concessions to

"What we are doing is removing some objections to something the Europeans are doing," Hadley said on "Fox News Sunday." "But I do not think that the Iranian regime can take much comfort in this because as part of this arrangement, the Europeans now for the first time are talking about Iranian support to terror and the need for this Iranian regime to listen to their people and to give them a greater role in the political process."



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China testing AIDS vaccine on humans

The Associated Pres

BEIJING — China has begun conducting the first stage of testing of a new AIDS vaccine on eight volunteers, the government said.

The testing began Saturday, when the volunteers received physical checkups and signed waivers, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

A total of 49 volunteers between the ages of 18 and 50 will be part of the tests, to take place in three stages, said Xinhua, citing Chen Jie, director of the disease control agency in southern China's Guangxi region.

The first stage of testing will last 14 months, Xinhua said. It didn't say what the stage was meant to test, but said the second would cover the "immune nature and safety of the vaccine."

The agency didn't give any other details of the tests. Chinese drug regulators approved the tests last Novem-

At that time, state media said the vaccine, already tested on monkeys, was developed by Chinese scientists who have studied the genetics of the AIDS virus since 1996. China savs it has 840.000 people infected with the

AIDS virus and 80,000 with the full-blown disease. But health experts say the true figures are much higher and warn that China could have 10 million people infected by 2010 unless it takes urgent action.

After years of denying that the disease was a problem, the communist government has become more open about its AIDS epidemic, though activists are still regularly detained and harassed.

In the world's biggest study of an experimental AIDS vaccine, Thai and U.S. researchers have been testing a combination of two drugs on 16,000 Thai volunteers since 2003.



An Albanian man, joined by his family, looks at the ballot paper Sunday during Macedonia's municipal elections in the village of Zajaz. Fights broke out at four polling stations, causing voting to be postponed.

Fights at polls delay Macedonian voting

The Associated Press

SKOPJE, Macedonia — Scuffles between election workers shut down at least three Macedonian polling stations Sunday as voters cast ballots in municipal elections — the first held under reforms intended to help the ethnically tense republic forge closer ties with Europe.

Election Commission spokesman Zoran Tanevski said fights broke out at four stations, one near the capital, Skopje, and three in other parts of the country. One of them remained open, he said, but he did not specify which one.

He described the incidents as minor and said voting in the three districts affected by the closures would be postponed until March 27. He said no problems were reported at the other nearly 3,000 polling stations nationwide.

International observers are in the former Yugoslav republic to monitor the poll to elect local government officials in new municipalities created following an ethnic Albanian rebel insurgency four years ago.

An internationally brokered cease-fire paved the way for the reforms.

Ethnic Albanians, demanding minority-rights guarantees from

the majority Macedonian Slavs, will gain greater autonomy under the reformed local government system with expanded control over schools, law enforcement and taxation.

"The most important thing for Macedonia and all of us is to have peaceful, fair and democratic elections today," President Branko Crvenkovski said after voting near the capital, Skopje.

"This will be ... a big step forward toward our strategic goal, a place in Europe."

Nearly 400 candidates from dozens of political parties are participating in mayoral races in 85 municipalities, including Skopje.

Two-term Skopje Mayor Risto Penov, a 47-year-old Liberal-Democrat, is facing a challenge from opposition-backed businessman Trifun Kostovski, 58, in a campaign marred by corruption allegations from both sides.

But Macedonia's elections are as much about low living standards as they are about resolving ethnic divisions.

"The vast majority of people here see these elections as a test of the nation's democratic maturity," Pande Lazarevski, director of the Macedonian Institute for Social, Science and Political Researches, said.

Rice entering diplomatic fray to lure N. Korea back to talks

BY BURT HERMAN

SEOUL, South Korea — Condoleezza Rice is the latest entrant in a flurry of Asian diplomacy aimed at luring North Korea back to disarmament talks, with the two-year-old crisis at a new high since the North claimed last month it has nuclear weapons and would boycott the deadlocked talks.

The U.S. secretary of state's trip

The U.S. secretary of states to starting Monday to China, Japan and South Korea is her first to the region since taking the top spot at the State Department, and is to "review with our partners our diplomatic efforts to convene the next round of six-party talks," spokesman Richard Boucher said.

Since the North claimed on Feb. 10 that it has nuclear weapons and would stay away from the nuclear negotiations, the other countries involved in the talks — China, Japan, Russia, South Korea and the United States — have sent envoys scurrying across the conti-

throughs and bold proposals have been scarce, as with evidence proving the North really has nuclear bombs

But break-

It was Rice's comment during her confirma-

tion hearings, grouping North Korea among the world's "outposts of tyranny," that the North seized on as a reason for shunning the nuclear talks. The North has

Rice

also taken President Bush's sweeping rhetoric on spreading freedom around the world as tacitly aimed at the overthrow of Kim Jong Il's regime.

regime.
And North Korea is sure to scrutinize the Bush administration's recent nomination of one of the North's most outspoken critics—top arms control official John Bolton—as its ambassador to the United Nations.

North Korea might worry that Bolton will press the U.N. Security Council for sanctions against the North, said Peter Beck, Seoulbased director of the North East Asia Project for the International Crisis Group think tank.

The North has hinted at possible compromises. Kim Jong II told a visiting Chinese diplomat his country would return to the talks if the United States shows "trustworthy

Italy bombing injures child

ROME — An explosion at a church in northeastern Italy during Sunday Mass seriously injured a 6-year-old child and raised fears that an unknown bomber active in the area had struck again. Two other people had slight injuries.

Investigators said the cause of the explosion at the Roman Catholic church in Motta di Livenza was still unclear. However, the town's mayor said officials suspected the perpetrator was the "Italian Unahomber," who is believed responsible for a dozen explosions in the area over the past decade.

The North has sincerity." Germany looks to reduce its EU costs

FRANKFURT, Germany — German Finance Minister Hans Eichel said in an interview released Sunday that he wants to reduce his nation's contributions to the European Union, citing the burden of paying for Germany's reunification.

Speaking to Focus weekly ahead of next week's EU finance ministers' meeting on the 2007-2013 budget, Eichel said that no country should have to contribute more than 1 percent of its gross national income to Brussels.

From The Associated Press

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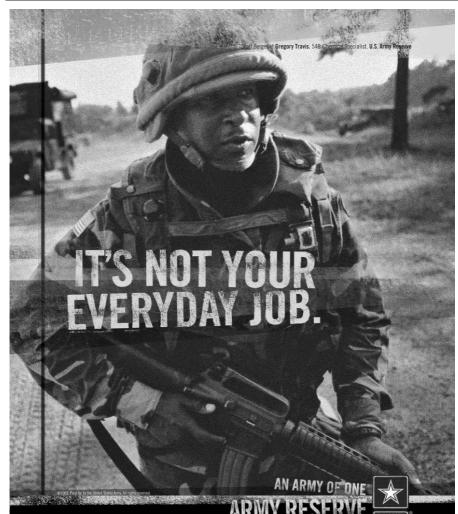
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IN THE STATES

Gunman kills 7, self at Wis. hotel ${ m Tsunami \atop center sued}$

BY RYAN NAKASHIMA The Associated Press

BROOKFIELD, Wis. - Police have found no clear motive for why a man opened fire with a handgun during an evangelical church service at a hotel, killing seven people before taking his own life.

Investigators found no suicide note or any other documents that could tell them what led to the shooting rampage Saturday in this Milwaukee suburb, Police Chief Daniel Tushaus said Sunday.

Terry Ratzmann, 44, fired 22 shots, stopping once to reload, and then shot himself in the head at the Sheraton hotel. Tushaus said.

About 50 to 60 people were sitting in a meeting room when Ratzmann walked in from the back and started firing, Tushaus said. Witnesses told police he didn't

say anything before he fired. "At this point, we're unable to determine if he had specific targets or he just shot at random,"

police Capt. Phil Horter said. Police searched Ratzmann's home in New Berlin, about two miles from the hotel, and seized three computers and a rifle, Hort-

Investigators were looking into reports that Ratzmann became



From left to right, Chelsey Porth, Kaitlin Schaeren, Ariel Reuter and Kelly Rooney, all of New Berlin, Wis., leave flowers outside the Sheraton Hotel Saturday, in Brookfield, Wis. A gunman opened fire Saturday at a church service being held at the hotel, killing seven and himself and wounding several others, police said.

upset during a church service a few weeks ago and walked out, and he also may have been about to lose his job, Horter said.

Ratzmann was affiliated with the Living Church of God, which had been meeting at the hotel every Saturday morning for four

"This is a terrible tragedy. We are cooperating with the authorities to find out what happened, Charlotte, North Caroli na-based group said on its Web

At one point during the shooting, a friend of Ratzmann's confronted him and pleaded with him to stop shooting, Horter said Tushaus did not identify the vic-

tims but gave approximate ages. Two boys ages 15 and 17, a 72-year-old man and a 55-year-old woman died at the hotel. Three men ranging in age from 44 to 58 died later at a hospi-

Four other people were hospitalized in serious condition.

After the shootings, police re-moved a pickup truck from the hotel parking lot.

New Berlin Mayor Telesfore Wysocki said police told him the gunman lived with his mother and sister, who were being interviewed by officers as police collected evidence at their house. "We are in total shock and dis-

belief," the mayor said.

Neighbors said Ratzmann was a devout churchgoer and avid gardener who built his own greenhouse and shared homegrown vegetables with his neighbors.

by survivors, victims' kin

HONOLULU - The federal agency that operates the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center is being sued by Indian Ocean tsunami survivors and relatives of victims.

The suit alleges the center in Ewa Beach and other defendants did not do enough to protect people from the Dec. 26 tsunami, which killed as many as 300,000 people throughout southern Asia. The lawsuit asks the court to

preserve evidence for the plain-tiffs so they can decide whether to pursue damages, an attorney said. "At least they should have the op-

tion to know what is going on," said Edward Fagan, the U.S. attorney for the plaintiffs. The lawsuit claims the Thai gov-

ernment is destroying and concealing evidence that will prove its officials knew of the approaching tsunami. The suit was filed last week

Named as defendants are the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Thai-land's government, its Meteorological Department and the Accor group, the French owner of the Sofitel hotel chain in Phuket, Thai-

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Rice reiterates: 'I will not run for president'

BY MIKE ALLEN The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice described herself Friday as "mildly pro-choice" and "kind of libertarian" on abortion as she once again ruled out running for president.

Rice told The Washington Times last week she "can't imagand that she is "not trying to be elected." But she said she knows people are talking about the possibility, and did not rule it out when pressed repeatedly. The State Department released a transcript of the interview Saturday.

She closed the door in appearances on Sunday talk shows, telling NBC's "Meet the Press," "I will not run for president of the

"I won't run," she told ABC's "This Week." "I won't. How's that? Is that categorical enough?"

The Republican platform is strongly anti-abortion, and abortion opponents play a big role in many primaries. Rice explicated her views when a questioner from the newspaper told her that the written record was murky.

"If you go back to 2000 when I

paign," she said, "I said that I was, in effect, kind of libertarian on this issue. And meaning by that, that I have been concerned about a government role in this

issue. I am a strong proponent of parental choice — of parental notification. I am a strong proponent of a ban on late-term abortion. These are all things that I think unite people and I think that that's where we should be. I've called myself at times mildly pro-choice.

Many Republicans have expressed curiosity about her views on social issues as she assumed a higher profile and as it became increasingly clear that the early field for 2008 had no obvious Bush successor.

Rice's image-conscious staff has refined the way she is portrayed on television compared to her predecessor, Colin Powell. Instead of taking questions with foreign dignitaries in front of the
State Department's glass doors,
she appears in the monumental
Benjamin Franklin State Dining
room, with Corinthian columns.
She meets photographers in front
of a fireplace that evokes the Oval
Office, and has given many more
interviews to U.S. and international reporters on overseas tirn
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Some political operatives relish
the idea of Rice taking on Sen Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., in

2008. One of the Washington
Times questioners said, "You
could save us from Hillary."

"Oh, jeez," Rice said when the question was raised. "I'm going to try to be a really good secretary of state. I'm going to work really hard at it. I have enormous respect for people who do run for office. It's really hard for me imagine myself in that role."

The Associated Press contributed to this

Family, friends in awe over shooting

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Two pictures have emerged of the man police say went on a bloody rampage through Atlanta — allegedly killing a judge and as many as three others before his arrest Saturday at a suburban apartment complex

Family members describe Brian Nichols as a "good person" who came from a stable home and avoided the temptations of the street.

Former classmates and coaches, on the other hand, recall him as a physically intimidating martial arts expert with a knack for trouble.

Police say Nichols, a former computer technician who was on trial for rape, overpowered a female sheriff's deputy Friday and shot and killed Judge Rowland Barnes, who was presiding over his case. He also is accused of killing the judge's court reporter and a deputy who tried to stop him as he fled the downtown courthouse.

Nichols is also a suspect in the shooting death of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agent David Wilhelm, whose body was found Saturday in north Atlanta.

"We're trying to understand this whole thing," Nichols' sister-in-law Felisza Nichols said from her home in the Plantation, Fla

Nichols' mother, Clathera, is a retired IRS worker, and his father, Gene, was an entrepreneur, their daughter-in-law said. They raised their sons in Maryland, sending them to private schools and to college.

Nichols was briefly a student at Kutztown University in eastern Pennsylvania. He left the university in the fall semester of his sophomore year. Nichols was arrested at least three times during his short stay at the university.



Brian Nichols

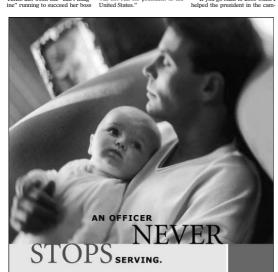
Nick Pergine, who played football with Nichols at Kutztown, said Nichols' massive physical presence and martial arts skills earned him a reputation as someone to be careful around. "He was a bad dude," Pergine said. "You didn't mess with him."

In 1990, Nichols was charged with terroristic threats, simple assault, disorderly conduct and harassment, stemming from an incident in a university dining hall, according to court documents.

Nichols' last known job was working as a computer technician for a subsidiary of Atlanta-based shipping giant UPS. Company spokesman Norm Black says Nichols joined the unit in March 2004 and left in September 2004, which was when he was arrested in the rape case.

Felisza Nichols says the portrait of her 33-year-old brother-in-law as a bloodthirsty killer doesn't make sense.

"He's a good person," she said.
"He didn't come from a broken
home. He's not a person who
hung out in the streets and was always in jail. He came up living a
good life."



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Left: Marchers gather on the steps of the state Capitol in Montgomery, Ala. Above: The Rev. Joseph Lowery, a co-founder of the Southern Christian Leadership

Scientists say mysterious Western light was a meteor

PORTLAND, Ore. - Dozens of residents in the Pacific Northwest reported seeing a bright streak of light as it flashed across the sky, startling witnesses from southern Oregon to the Seattle area, officials said

Scientists said the flaming object was probably a meteor, and that it likely disintegrated before any fragments fell into the Pacific Ocean.

'It was like a big ball of fire, said Summer Jensen, who was in her living room Saturday night when she saw the flash of light outside her Portland home.

Michael O'Connor, a spokes-man for the Federal Aviation Administration's regional office in Renton, Washington, said he field-ed numerous calls from people reporting they had seen a bright streak across the sky.

He said police, pilots and some air traffic controllers described it as "a green ball of fire with a long

"It appears to have come down over the ocean," said Dick Pugh of the Cascadia Meteorite Labora-

tory in Portland. He said the object flew over the Pacific Coast, streaking along

from south to north. Jim Todd, planetarium director at the Oregon Museum of Science & Industry, said that if a meteor had entered the atmosphere during the day, it may not even

"It creates a bright contrast against the night sky," Todd said.

have been noticed

Extension of Voting Rights Act urged

Weeklong re-enactment of historic Alabama march ends with appeals

BY SAMIRA JAFARI The Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. - Black politicians must urge Congress to extend the Voting Rights Act, civil rights leaders said Saturday at the finale of the re-enactment of the Selma to-Montgomery march that helped lead to passage of the law

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 "was the single most significant piece of legislation in the century," the Rev. Joseph Lowery, a co-founder of the Atlanta-based Southern Christian Leadership Conference, told a crowd

of nearly 300 marchers at the state Capitol In 1965, no blacks held major office in Ala-bama. University of Alabama political scientist William Stewart said.

By 2001, there were more than 755 black elected officials in Alabama, according to the most recent figures available from the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. Across the South, the number has grown from 70 to nearly 7,000.

The first voting rights march was halted at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma by state troopers and sheriff's deputies who attacked activists with clubs and tear gas on March 7

1965, "Bloody Sunday." A second march two weeks later was led by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and had the

protection of a federal court order. Marchers went from the bridge over the Alabama River to the steps of the state Capitol in

The attack and the marches inspired passage of the Voting Rights Act, which barred obstacles such as literacy tests that were set up by segregationists to keep blacks from reg-

Certain provisions of the Voting Rights Act, such as the use of federal examiners and a requirement for Justice Department approval of election law changes, will be up for renewal by Congress in 2007.

I bring a message to all elected officials said Keif Schleifer, 43, of Atlanta, who walked the entire 54-mile trek with about 50 other people this past week 'We've marched from Selma to Montgom-

ery to exercise our patriotic right. We are watching your every action. We are holding you accountable. We are not going away."

Annual Gridiron dinner features a comedy of errors by GOP. Dems

BY DARLENE SUPERVILLE The Associated Press

WASHINGTON Bush poked fun at himself at the press corps Saturday night and offered a new reason for overhaul-ing the Social Security system. Raising the name of Defense

Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Bush said, "We have to fix it or Rumsfeld may never retire.' Bush noted - with a little help

— the presence of a number of new Cabinet members attending the Gridiron Club's 120th annual

Turning to Vice President Dick Cheney, the president said, "Dick, maybe you can point them out to me.

Some of the press skits he had watched earlier in a long evening were about steroid use in professional sports, but Bush said that in looking out at the press corps he was confident none of them were on steroids.

"Those are all natural bodies," he said

Bush said anyone looking for a transcript of the evening's program should call Doug Wead, the longtime Bush family friend who recently made public tape recordings of private telephone conversations he had with Bush before he started running for president

The president noted that former President Clinton was recovering from surgery and said that "when he woke up he was surrounded by his loved ones" - his wife, daughter and "my dad."

The former President Bush and Clinton have become some thing of an item despite their once fierce political rivalry. Earlier in the evening, a woman pretending to be John Kerry's wife sang about how happy she is

It was as close to "Saturday Night Live" as Washington gets, as journalists assumed the personas of politicians in song, dance and wisecracks.

that he wasn't elected.

The Gridiron Dinner is a journalistic tradition in which, for one night, members of the Fourth Estate turn the tables on the powerful people they report and write about daily. The Gridiron Club's motto is to "singe, but never



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Net effort aims to keep Schiavo alive

By Maya Bell

The Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel

ORLANDO, Fla. — Fifteen years ago, two leaders of the

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INTEREST INVIES	
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anti-abortion group Operation Rescue walked into a motel in small-town Missouri and begged the night clerk for a fax ma-

At a nearby hospital, the parents of Nancy Cruzan were set to remove the feeding tube that had kept their daughter alive for nearly eight years. The activists were desperate to mobilize opposition to what they considered would be her murder.

"That's how sophisticated we were," remembers the Rev. Pat Mahoney, now executive director of the Christian Defense Coa-

"We were desperately trying to get the word out, desperately trying to get people out. There just wasn't much interest."

Today, Mahoney is a leader of an informal but growing network of conservative, religious and disability organizations who, with the click of a computer mouse, are enlisting hundreds of thousands of people in Bob and Mary Schindler's fight to keep their daughter Terri Schiavo alive.

The feeding tube that has pumped life-sustaining nutrients into the severely brain-damaged Florida woman's stomach for 15 years is scheduled to be disconnected Friday under a court order won by her husband, Michael

The courts have agreed with Michael Schiavo that his wife is in a persistent vegetative state, and although she never wrote down her wishes made it clear in casual conversations that she would have rejected artificial life support



Bob and Mary Schindler, parents of Terri Schiavo, listen to supporters at a rally in Pinellas Park, Fla., no Saturday. With words of encouragement from actor Mel Gibson, the family of Terri Schiavo joined a rally Saturday to continue pleading for the brain-damaged woman's life, just days before the court-ordered removal of her feeding tube.

But turning to the Internet, alternative media and grass-roots organizations to spread their right-to-life messages, what Mahoney calls the "faith-and-values community" has unleashed an avalanche of support for Schiavo's parent.

That has prompted lawmakers in Congress and Tallahassee to file legislation on the Schindlers' behalf and ignited a national debate on the withdrawal of medically supplied hydration and nutrition, drawing the likes of the Vatican, and on Saturday, actor Mel Gibson to their cause.

The first goal of the campaign, Mahonev said, is to save Terri

sturasy, with words of encouragelijly of Terri Schlave joined a rally brain-damaged woman's life, just val of her feeding tube. Schlavo's life. But he and others also hope to roll back the laws and ethical and medical guidelines that have evolved since 1990, when the U.S. Supreme Court recognized artificial sustenance and hydration as medical treatment. That ruling eventual-

tube. Now, patients or their health-care decision makers in every state have the right to refuse or withdraw artificial feedings under certain circumstances. That is something many of those joining the Schindlers' campaign reject as immoral and inhumane, and a step down the road to legalizing euthanasia.

ly cleared the way for Cruzan's

parents to remove her feeding

4-year-old shoots 2-year-old brother

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — A 2-year-old was shot by his 4-year-old brother, who may not have known the difference between a real gun and a toy gun, police said.

The 2-year-old, who suffered a single gunshot wound to the temple, was in critical condition Saturday night at Ben Taub Hospital.

The shooting occurred Saturday afternoon at a home in southwest Houston.

Police Sgt. Cameron Grysen said the boys had been arguing when the 2-year-old threw a toy at his brother.

toy at his brother.

The mother thought the boys had returned to their room, but they had instead gone to her room, where the older boy took a loaded gun from the woman's purse.

"The 4-year-old was angry ... he went and got the gun, put it to his brother's head and shot the gun," Grysen said.

The mother told police she had the .32-caliber automatic to protect her family because of recent neighborhood burglaries, and that Saturday was the one day that she did not secure the weapon.

cure the weapon.

She could face criminal charges.

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Cents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

Prepaid credit for teens

MarketWate

NEW YORK — Teenagers spent an estimated \$175 billion last year, according to Teenage Research Unlimited, a market research company specializing in young adults.

Now credit card companies are rushing to capture that audience with prepaid cards, featuring celebrities such as rapper Usher and actress Hilary Duff, as well as cartoon characters like Hello Kitty.

Parents register their child for a card and then load it up with money. Some parents use the cards to give their kids funds for events such as back-to-school shopping, while others use it to dole out weekly allowances. They also can monitor their children's spending habits via the Internet.

Though touted as a great way for teens and preteens to learn how to manage money, this is one "money tool" you should steer clear of, advised Janet Bodnar, executive editor of Kiplinger's Personal Finance. Kids aren't using such cards to learn about credit or money management, she said: "They want it because it's cool."

"It's not their money," Bodnar added, noting that many teenagers don't understand how credit works. "It's still mom and dad's money."

These prepaid debits also carry hefty charges. Not charges. Not charges. Not proceed to the control of the charges of the charges and the charges (about \$50. And many cards charge \$3. to \$55. And many cards the charge \$3. to \$55. each time you reload the accounts with money. Those fees add up quickly if you plan to use such a card for your child's allow-

Stick to cash until your teenager has his or her own job, Bodnar recommends. Then let him or her open a checking account with a real debit card.

Oh, gross! Disgusting exhibit proves popular

BY JOSEPH B. FRAZIER

The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Freddie
the Fly lays it out in terms dear to
the adolescent heart: "My wife's

cooking is so bad I vomit before I eat. But seriously ..."
Freddie tosses off one-liners like the late Henny Youngman, all of them true. It's all about "gross" at the Oregon Museum of

Science and Industry.
Freddie, a huge animated
model, is the star of the "Vomit
Slurpers" exhibit in "Grossology:
The Science of Creatures Gross
and Disgusting." Freddie has
grade-schoolers clustered around
as he explains how he upchucks
his diperstive juices on a sandwich

soup and a sandwich. ..."

The display and more like it turn the gross into a teaching tool, often with indelicate candor. It's on a North American tour that winds up at Space Center Houston in June 2007.

then sucks up his dinner. "Hey,

"RETCH! Kitty hurls a warm hairy hot dog!" reads a display on feline hair balls that also gives a clear diagram of what makes Fluffy tick.

At the Dung-Ball Rally, a much-larger-than-life dung beetle (the Egyptians called them scarabs) boasts, "I can push a ball of poop 50 times my weight uphill." A video game challenges youngsters to see whose beetle can get his dung ball to the too first.

But there's a message here. A fly, the exhibit notes, can carry 1.25 million bacteria and

any of 100 diseases; the dung bee-

tle is imported to Texas pastures and one can bury 1,000 pounds of cow droppings a year.

Exhibit visitors also learn that doctors were called "leeches" in Old English because they used leeches to suck the blood of patients they were treating. The practice is not totally dead.

The classrooms of kids who file through could watch it spelled out on the blackboard back at school. But this way, museum officials hope, they will remember.

"It's a safe space for kids," said Cara Wolf-Feather, an educator at the museum. "They can say things they can't say at home. And they may be grossed-out, but they may be lured in deeper to find out more."

Animal Grossology follows a popular exhibit of "Grossology: The (Impolite) Science of the Human Body" that toured nationally and broke many attendance records.

The human grossology display at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, which billed it as "Know Thy Poop," drew 400,000 visitors in three months, more than double any other springtime show it has hosted.

The grossology concept comes from Sylvia Branzei, a former science teacher from Port Roberts, Wash., whose five books on human and animal grossology have sold in the hundreds of thousands.

Branzei said the target age is 8 to 12 but the exhibits try to accommodate everyone.

She said the idea came in 1993 when she was clipping her toenails. "It literally hit me: 'What's



Susan Manquist, left, of Vancouver, Wash., and her children, Katie, 7, and Benjamin, 9, check out the display of a vomiting fly on top of a giant chocolate chip cookie at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in Portland, Ore. The display is part of "Grossology: The Science of Creatures Gross and Disgusting," the brainchild of a former science teacher designed to turn the gross into a teaching tool, which is on a North American tour winding up at the Space Center in Houston in June 2007.

that gunk made of?' Kids like gross stuff. I wanted to teach them science. It was born right then and there."

However, Branzei, who stopped classroom teaching a couple of years ago, said she has avoided the grotesque.

"I stay in areas that most people experience themselves. For example, I stay away from elephantiasis. It's not what most people experience. We make fun of all of ourselves, not just certain examples."

And parents seem to like the show. "They'll tell me, 'Oh my gosh, my child loves science a lot'."

She said an educational TV series may be in the offing.

Texas OKs cupcakes in classrooms

The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Amid a tense education funding debate, Texas House members paused Wednesday to take up a matter dear to school kids everywhere: cupcakes.

Legislators in a unanimous recorded vote cleared the way for public school students to bring the sweet treats — complete with candy sprinkles — to celebrate their birthdays.

"We have an opportunity to really make the children happy here," said Rep. Jim Dunnam, a Waco Democrat, asking fellow House members to approve the measure requested by his school-age daughter, Lauren.

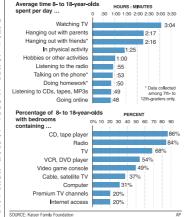
Texas Aericulture Commission-

er Susan Combs, whose agency oversees the state's school lunch program, imposed new healthy food rules aimed at limiting or eliminating junk food and food that competes with cafeteria fare.

In August, soon after setting the new rules, Combs issued a "cupcake clarification" stating that cakes and cupcakes could be brought to school for birthdays. The agriculture department did, however, recommend that birthday parties be scheduled after the last lunch period.

Study finds media-saturated youth

A new study has found young people ages 8 to 18 have an unprecedented amount of media in their daily lives and surroundings, spending up to six-and-a-half hours a day in media-related activities.



Kids' rooms loaded with new technology

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It wasn't too long ago that a kid with a stereo and television in his room might have been the coolest on the block. Now, that just makes him one of the crowd.

In the past five years, many children's rooms have evolved into multimedia centers, with cable or satellite hookups, computers and video game consoles.

For instance, 20 percent of youngsters age 8 to 18 can surf the Web from their bedrooms, double the figure from 1999, according to a Kaiser Family Foundation survey released Wednesday.

That has helped turn kids into 'media multitaskers,' researchers suggest. Nearly one-third of kids say they chat on the phone, surf the Web, instant message, watch TV or listen to music "most of the time" while doing their homework. What effect this behavior has on

what effect his behavior has on the often fragile ability of kids to focus is unclear because detailed research is fairly new, said Vicky Rideout, the foundation vice president who directed the study.

Some of the blame — or praise

rests with the Internet and technology such as instant messaging,
tools widely used for education
and entertainment, said Lee Rain-

ie, director of the Pew Internet & American Life Project.

Kaiser surveyed more than 2,000 third-graders through 12th-graders between October 2003 and March 2004 about them oneschool use of TV and videos, music, video games, computers, movies and print. The study included nearly 700 people who kept seven-day "media diaries."

seven-day 'media diaries."

On average, kids devoted six hours and 21 minutes a day to recreational media use, an increase of just two minutes from 1999, the Kaiser study found.

That still amounts to over 44 hours a week — four more hours than a parent's typical work week.

But 26 percent of kids in 2004

said they "multitasked" when using any form of media, compared with 16 percent five years earlier. Over the same period the proportion of kids' homes that have two or more computers: jumped from 25 percent, and the proportion with Internet access in the home grew from 47 percent of 74 percent.

The proportion of kids who had

The proportion of RIGS who had a VCR or DVD player in their room rose from 36 percent to 54 percent, while the proportion with cable or satellite TV in their own room grew from 29 percent to 37 percent.



EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Mostly cloudy with isolated rain and snowshowers. Highs in the 40s. Tuesday lows in the 30s.

Britain, Ireland: Cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the 40s. Tuesday lows in the mid-30s to mid-

France: Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s to lower 60s. Tuesday lows in the lower 30s to lower 40s.

Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy with rain and snowshowers. Highs in the 40s. Tuesday lows in the upper

Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy with isolated rain and snowshowers. Highs in the upper 30s to lower 40s. Tuesday lows in the upper 20s to lower 30s.

Hungary: Partly cloudy. Highs in the 40s. Tuesday lows in the upper 20s.

Northern Italy: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s to upper 50s. Tuesday

Southern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s to upper 60s. Tuesday lows in the 40s.

Kosovo: Partly cloudy. Highs in the 40s. Tuesday lows in the lower 30s.

Norway: Cloudy with rain and snow-showers. Highs in the mid-20s to mid-30s. Tuesday lows in the mid-teens to mid-20s.

Portugal, Spain: Partly cloudy becoming cloudy with rainshowers. Highs in the mid-50s to mid-60s. Tuesday lows in the mid-50s to mid-50s along the coast and in the 30s inland.

Turkey: Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the lower 50s to lower 60s. Tuesday lows in the 40s.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAFE Operational Weather Squadron home

https://ows.sembach.af.mil http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil

SUN & MOON

61/42 HI 42 69 51 64 68 86 19 60 HII 87 68 33 71 87 45 50 80 47 LO 74 52 19 54 79 30 33 67 79/49 35 58 30 53 62 63 01 57 49 Karac 87/69 Last qtr 2 Apr 05 THE UNITED STATES TODAY TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK 44 PCidy 50 Ch 56 PCidy 47 PCidy 44 PCidy 72 Ch 25 Cidy 49 Cidy 39 Ch 42 PCidy 10 PCidy 20 PCidy 27 Ch Snow Cidy, Rain PCidy, PCidy, PCidy, PCidy, Snow PCidy, Snow PCidy, Snow PCidy, Snow PCidy, Snow PCidy, Snow PCidy, PCidy 534 55 44 4 85 6 4 5 4 4 6 3 5 2 5 4 4 8 2 8 8 8 8 8 6 4 4 5 5 5 5 4 PCId PCId PCId PCId PCId Snow Rain Cld PCId PCIB CIB CIB CIB CIB Knoxville Lake Ch





Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.



PAGE 20 STARS AND S

Fit on a flight

AK ANCHORAGE — A man denied alcohol during a United Airlines flight went on a rampage, breaking tray tables and other equipment, the FBI said

Brian A. Casias, 35. has been charged with interfering with the flight crew on Flight 711 from Denver to Anchorage.

Casias, of Commerce City, Colo... was heard swearing as he boarded the flight Tuesday, and the plane's captain advised him that he would not be served alcoholic beverages.

When a flight attendant denied Casias' request for a drink, he allegedly threw his tray of food down and spat repeatedly on the floor, the FBI said

Casias allegedly ripped the phone off the back of the seat and broke two tray tables, throwing them to the floor, the FBI said.

Casias also is accused of urinating on the floor of the lavatory, where he allegedly broke a handicapped bar and a changing table. He also is accused of swearing repeatedly and of smoking several cigarettes on the plane.

Ranists drunk at center

ARCADIA — Violent sexual predators at a privately operated treatment center brew their own alcohol, wander around "staggering drunk" and often have brutal fights, state investigators found.

A report by the Department of Children & Families' inspector general portrays the Florida Civil Commitment Center as a largely lawless place where rapists and child molesters freely consume alcohol and brawl

"All residents and staff interviewed admitted 'everyone' knows the residents make and consume homemade alcohol, called 'buck,' " the report completed last month said. "Two residents during the investigative interview admitted being intoxicated at the time."

Foreign pledge protest

MILLERSVILLE — A ninth-grader is protesting his school's decision to broadcast the Pledge of Allegiance in foreign languages as part of National Foreign Language Week

Patrick Linton said he and other students at Old Mill High School sat down rather than stand when the Pledge was read over the school's public address system in Russian. Linton's teacher told him if he had a problem he should leave the room

He did, and did not plan to return this week.

"This is America, and we got soldiers at war," the 15-year-old said. 'When you're saying the Pledge in a different language which nobody understands that's not OK

Tour boats seized

HONOLULU - Two tour boats owned by Dream Cruises were seized by the U.S. Marshals Service because the company was in default of a \$1.4 million mortgage on the vessels, according to officials and court docu-

The American Dream in Kewalo

pline and scheduling difficulties

Girl stranded

DALLAS — A school bus driver accused of forcing a 5-year-old girl to get off the bus more than a mile from her scheduled stop was placed on paid administrative leave pending an investigation

Jadian Anderson said the driver made her daughter. Syria, get off the bus after she complained that another student was hitting her

"He did not leave her with another adult; he left her on the street. Anderson said, "He was very negliand he endangered child

Syria walked about a half-mile before a crossing guard saw her and noticed she was crying. While the guard was trying to figure out where she lived, a relative drove by, saw the girl and picked her up.

Dallas County Schools spokes-woman Deanne Hullender said that if the driver acted inappropriately, officials will "take the proper action '

Dorm shower cam

CT HAMDEN — A Quinnipiac University student has been sanctioned for allegedly hiding a video camera in a dormitory shower.

University officials refused to name the student and would not say what the sanctions were. The student was sanctioned

after a story about the hidden camera appeared in the student newspaper, the Chronicle.

Doug Manners, a sophomore ournalism major from East Longmeadow, Mass., reportedly discovered the camera

Manners noticed something with red lights attached to a shower grate in the Troup residence hall on Feb. 6, the Chronicle reported. He and his roommate took the grate out of the ceiling and found the camera, which was connected to an adapter and electrical cord.

The two students brought the camera to the dorm's residential assistant who called campus security. Officers confiscated the equipment and inspected other bathrooms in the dorm

DMV files stolen

NORTH LAS VEGAS — Personal information from more than 8,900 people was stolen when thieves broke into a Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles office, officials said Friday

A computer taken during the break-in contained names, ages, dates of birth. Social Security numbers, photographs and signatures of southern Nevada residents who obtained driver's licenses between Nov. 25 and March 4 at the North Las Vegas office, state DMV chief Ginny Lewis said.

The DMV had previously maintained that the information on the computer stolen in Monday's break-in was encrypted, making it virtually useless to thieves.

But Lewis said Friday that Digimarc Corp., the Beaverton, Ore.,-based company that provides digital driver's licenses in Nevada, told her Thursday the information was not encrypted, and was readily accessible



Kate Pfeiffer tunnels Watch out, coming through her way out onto the street at the home of her grandmother, Valerie Pfeiffer, in Augusta, Maine



Husband on the run Saad Mian runs from his wife, Sara, as she attempts to wallop him with a ball during a family picnic at Menominee Park in Oshkosh. Wis.



Winter fun Taking advantage of one of the last days of their winter vacation, Kristin Korona, top, and Danielle LaMontagne, both of Londonderry, N.H., test out the sledding hill at Roby Park in Nashua, N.H.



AMERICAN

ROUNDUP

Basin and its sister ship the Kona

Dream in Kona won't be allowed to

operate until court proceedings

are completed, a spokesman for

Deputy marshals posted "No

trespassing" signs aboard the ves-

sels while employees were allowed

to remove personal belongings. About 75 employees are affected.

el Watson said he was surprised by

the action. He acknowledged being a couple of months late on pay

ments, but he said he was in discus-

sions with the lender for a new pay-

Teachers dropping out RI PROVIDENCE — Nineteen

troubled Hope High School have

told administrators they intend to

transfer to other schools, accord-

ing to Hope administrators and

Another 55 faculty told a screen-

ing committee they intend to stay

at the school, which had faced a

state takeover but will undergo

Some of the teachers who indi-

cated they'll transfer told inter-

viewers they had tired of past re-

form efforts, according to Frances

Gallo, chief of administration.

Many cited poor attendance, trans-

portation problems, lack of disci-

widespread changes instead.

state education officials.

members of the faculty at

Dream Cruises President Micha-

the service said

ment plan.

Getting the job done Edward Oliver, who works for the Anderson Parks and Recreation Department, paints a trash can green at the Darwin H. Wright Municipal Park in Anderson, S.C.



Enjoying the view

Dick Droghei catches some air with his stunt kite at O.K. Ward Park in Chubbuck, Idaho.



Bringing down the house Abulldozer pushes together be a two-room school in Ellis, Neb. Russ' Excavating of Beatrics knocked the building down after satisfying askestos concerns raised by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, and the rubble will be burned



Swimming pretty
A pair of black swans swim in an
exhibit at the 134th annual New
England Spring Flower Show, at
the Bay Side Expo Center in Bos-



Peaceful sunset As the setting sun paints the sky, a cow and two calves walk high on a ridge near Belt. Mont.

Anti-Bush road rage

FL TAMPA—A man apparently enraged by a Bush-Cheney sticker on a woman's sport utility vehicle chased her for miles and tried to run her off the road while holding up an anti-Bush sign. police said.

"He told our officers that he just got mad at her, so he went after her," said police spokesman Joe Durkin.

Nathan Alan Winkler, 31, was freed on \$2,000 bail on a charge of aggravated stalking, which carries up to five years in prison.

No one answered the telephone Thursday at Winkler's home, but his father, John Winkler, said: "I know that he's very anti-Bush. But I don't see him doing anything like that. He's the least aggressive person I know."

Fernandez was taking her 10-year-old son and 3-year-old daughter to a ball field when the incident occurred.

Raise your right paw

AR BENTONVILLE — Prosecutors hoping for a witness in a murder case to roll over were barking up the wrong tree.

They sent out a batch of subpoenas for anyone who had contact with Albert K. Smith while he was jailed awaiting his murder trial.

One of those subpoenas went out to 5-year-old Murphy Smith — Smith's dog, it turned out.

The defendant had written his dog a letter from his cell, and that is how the shih tzu's name got on the witness list.

Prosecutors realized the mistake after the defendant's brother brought in Murphy to answer the subpoena and a deputy would not let them into the courthouse because no dogs were allowed.

Albert Smith is accused of shooting to death his ex-wife's boyfriend.

Twins neglected

LAKE CARMEL — A set of malnourished 7-year-old twins whose existence was a surprise to neighbors and school officials were found in a dirty, unkempt home in Putnam County, police said.

The twins, Cassidy and John Giordano, who weighed 41 and 30 pounds respectively, were being treated for malnourishment and isolation at Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla.

Their parents, Eda and James Giordano of Lake Carmel, were each charged with two counts of endangering a child and were released without bail. Their phone is unlisted and Town Court records did not show an attorney of record.

Chief Donald Smith of the Town of Kent police force, which covers Lake Carmel, said it had probably been several years since the children had left the house.

Drug blamed in murder

DENVER — Nobody disputes that Danny Pommerville beat his 64-year-old grandmother to death with wine bottles last August, leaving her to die in a pool of blood and fleeing the state in her car.

But a defense attorney for the 24-year-old man told jurors that her client was in a PCP-induced

rag

"He snapped. He flipped. The PCP kicked in," Deputy Public Defender Cynthia Mares said. "His grandmother was telling him that he was a loser and that he should be in prison the rest of his life, and he snapped. He doesn't remember most of what happened."

Pommerville is on trial on charges of first-degree murder in the death of his grandmother, Jane Mazza

Animal abuse sentence

CA RIVERSIDE, Calif. — The co-defendant of a former animal rescuer, who pleaded guilty in January to child-endangerment and multiple animal-cruelty charges, has been sentenced to 180 days in custody and four years' probation

Marla Jean Smith was ordered to start serving her sentence on weekends beginning April 1. Smith helped former partner John Weinhart operate the defunct Tiger Rescue sanctuary. State officials testified during Weinhard's trial that they found one of the couples' children living in a home filled with trash and animal feces.

Officials also found malnourished tiger and leopard cubs in an attic, two alligators in a bathtub, two juvenile tigers in a patio and powerful animal tranquilizers, including PCP, in an unlocked refrigerator.

Street taxi getaway

OGDEN — Police said it seemed more like a movie plot than real life when a taxi driver became the reluctant wheel in for a suspected bank robber's getaway attempt.

The hunt for Donald Archambault, 53, who was suspected of robbing a Salt Lake City bank, ended 30 miles north of Ogden. Archambault bailed out of the cab and was arrested by waiting police.

Cabbie Ali Ahmed didn't realize his customer was wanted until he got a call on his cell phone from a police detective.

Ahmed's fears escalated when the suspect allegedly told him "he would empty his gun" if Ahmed turned him in to police. The suspect didn't know that Ahmed was talking to a detective throughout much of the Interstate 15 ride.

Gangsters get life

DC WASHINGTON — Six members of a drug gang dubbed "Murder Inc." blamed for dozens of killings in the nation's capital were sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parallel

The group's leaders, Kevin L. Gray, 33, and Rodney L. Moore, 39, were convicted last year after an eight-month trial. Gray was sentenced Wednesday to 26 concurrent life terms, plus 285 years. Moore received 14 concurrent life sentences, plus 135 years.

Four men who were convicted last May also were sentenced to multiple life terms.

The Murder Inc. gang is believed responsible for at least 31 killings between 1988 and 1999 as part of a quest to dominate the District of Columbia's cocaine and heroin markets, the U.S. attorney's office said.

Stories and photos from wire services

		Undated enorte liet	AFR	TS Televisio	n Schedule	te at http://myafn.dodmedia.	ned mil/	
		Орошко эроги пас	ings are available on the mo	MONDAY, MARCH 14,		io di Impaninyamacodinecia.	330.mie	
	(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00	Stanley	Movie "No Greater Love" (1996, Drama) Kelly Rutherford,	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	The Beltway Boys Fox News Watch	Arena Football Regional Cov- erage Arizona Battlers at	30-Minute Meals	Jeopardy! Headline News
9:30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat Arthur "1001 Dads." (EI)	Chris Sarandon.	(9:46) Oprah Winfrey	Headline News ESPNews	Fox News Watch Bulls and Bears	Tampa Bay Storm or Chicago	Paula's Home Cooking Designers' Challenge	Headline News ESPNews
10:00	Reading Rainbow (EI)	(:45) Movie *** "Diamonds	(:35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block	Cavuto on Business	Rush at Grand Rapids Ram-	Fashion Emergency	Pacific Report
10:30 11:00	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	Are Forever" (1971, Adven-	(:35) Guiding Light	60 Minutes	Forbes	page. (Taped)	The Soup	60 Minutes
11:30	Stanley	ture) Sean Connery, Jill St.	(:17) General Hospital	oo miiidies	Cashin' In	ł	The King of Queens	oo miiidies
12:00	Dora the Explorer	John, Lana Wood. James Bond battles a space-crazy villain.	Headline News	Without a Trace "Wannahe"	Dateline NBC	SportsCenter	That '70s Show "Drive-In"	Without a Trace "Wannahe"
12:30	The Wiggles	Dailles a space-crazy vilalli.	Judge Judy				Girlfriends "Just Dessert"	
13:00	Bob the Builder	Movie *** "Gigi" (1958) Maurice Chevalier, Leslie Caron.	Today Kelly Clarkson; Allison	ER Dr. Carter slips into a dan- gerous and lonely depression.	American Morning	1	Charmed Paige accidentally	ER Dr. Carter slips into a dan-
13:30	Dragon Tales (EI)	Maunce Chevalier, Leslie Caron.	DuBois.			PGA Golf Honda Classic Fi-	switches bodies with Phoebe.	gerous and lonely depression.
14:00	Blue's Clues "Thankful"	A young Parisienne is groomed to become a courtesan.		Pacific Report		nal Round. From the Country Club at Mirasol in Palm Beach	Strong Medicine	Pacific Report
14:30	Barney & Friends (EI)			The Tonight Show With Jay Leno		Gardens, Fla. (Taped)		The Tonight Show With Jay Leno
15:00	Funniest Home Videos	(:10) Movie *** "Tap" (1989) Gregory Hines, Sammy	Aladdin "Scare Necessities"				Any Day Now "Three Lucky Ladies on the Line"	
15:30	Growing Pains	Davis Jr. An ex-con is tom be-	ChalkZone (EI)	Late Show With David Letter- man				Late Show With David Letter-
16:00	Pokémon Yu-Gi-Oh!	tween crime and tap dancing.	Mucha Lucha Kim Possible (EI)	The Late Late Show With	FOX News	NBA Fastbreak	Third Watch "He Said/She Said"	The Late Late Show With
16:30 17:00	Doug "Doug's Patti Beet"	Access Hollywood	Jeopardy!	The Late Late Snow with	FOX News	NBA Fastoreak SportsCenter	Law & Order "Judge Dread"	The Late Late Snow with
17:00	The Wild Thornberrys	Access Hollywood	Headline News	Dennis Miller	T OA INGWS	Spoi iscenter	Law & Order Souge Dread	Dennis Miller
18:00	The Fairly OddParents	Entertainment Tonight	ESPNews	Dennis mine	FOX News	ł	The Simpsons	Decimino minici
18:30	Rugrats "Graham Canyon"		Headline News	Countdown With Keith Olber-		NBA Fastbreak	Everybody Loves Raymond	Countdown With Keith Olber-
19:00	Lizzie McGuire	Movie * * * "Secondhand	60 Minutes	mann	Dateline NBC	MLB Preseason Baseball At-	The Dead Zone "Instinct" John-	mann
19:30	The Brothers Garcia	Lions" (2003) Michael Caine. A		Access Hollywood	1	lanta Braves at St. Louis Cardi-	ny investigates animal behavior.	Access Hollywood
20:00	Smallville "Lineage" A woman	teen hears fantastic tales from his great-uncles.	Without a Trace "Wannabe"	Headline News	FOX News	nals. From Roger Dean Stadi- um in Jupiter, Fla. (Live)		Headline News
20:30	claims to be Clark's mother.	· ·		Entertainment Studios.com	i	ulli III Jupiter, Fla. (Live)		Entertainment Studios.com
21:00	Boy Meets World	(:04) Movie ** * "Election"	ER Dr. Carter slips into a dan-	The Hot List	Studio B With Shepard Smith	1	Monster House 'Hollywood	The Hot List
21:30	Boy Meets World	(1999) Matthew Broderick. A teacher tries to take a student		Headline News			House*	Headline News
22:00	The Cosby Show	overachiever down a peg.	Headline News	Good Morning America	Your World With Neil Cavuto	1st & 10	Friends	Good Morning America
22:30	Home Improvement		The Tonight Show With Jay			The Hot List	Seinfeld "The Cadillac"	
23:00	Touched by an Angel "Steal-	Movie * * * "Tombstone"	Leno		Connected: Coast to Coast	Around the Horn	Seinfeld "The Caddy"	
23:30	ing Home"	(1993, Western) Kurt Russell.	Late Show-Letterman			Pardon the Interruption	Blind Date	
				TUESDAY, MARCH 15				
00:00	Doug (EI)	(11:00) Movie *** "Tomb- stone" (1993, Western) Kurt	Late Show-Letterman	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
00:30	The Wild Thornberrys	Russell Val Kilmer	Access Hollywood		NBC Nightly News		The Dead Zone "Instinct" John-	Bear in the Big Blue House Connie the Cow
1:00	The Fairly OddParents Rugrats	(:18) Movie **x "Army of	NBA Basketball Los Angeles Lakers at Washington Wizards.	Connie the Cow Wheel of Fortune	ABC World News Tonight CBS Evening News	NCAA Women's Selection	ny investigates animal behavior.	Wheel of Fortune
1:30	Lizzie McGuire	Darkness" (1992, Horror) Bruce	From MCI Center in Washing-	Dr. Phil	The NewsHour With Jim	College Gamenight	iny arreconguico ammai ocinario.	Dr. Phil
2:00	The Brothers Garcia	Campbell, Embeth Davidtz.	ton, D.C. (Live)	Dr. Pilli	Lehrer	College Gallerlight		Dr. Pilli
3:00	Smallville "Lineage" A woman	Movie ** * "Secondhand		Oprah Winfrey	Hannity & Colmes	College Basketball NIT Tour-	Monster House 'Hollywood	Oprah Winfrey
3:30	claims to be Clark's mother.	Lions" (2003) Michael Caine. A	ESPNews	opiuii miiiicy	Training & Comics	nament First Round Teams	House'	Opium minincy
4:00	Boy Meets World	teen hears fantastic tales from	Motorcycle Racing Speedway	NBC Nightly News	The Fox Report With Shepard	TBA. (Live)	Friends	NBC Nightly News
4:30	Boy Meets World	his great-uncles.	Grand Prix. From Norway.	Judge Judy	Smith		Seinfeld "The Cadillac"	Judge Judy
5:00	Sesame Street (EI)	(:04) Movie * * * "Election"	ABC World News Tonight	Access Hollywood	Lou Dobbs Tonight	SportsCenter	Breathingspace Yoga	Access Hollywood
5:30	1	(1999) Matthew Broderick. A teacher tries to take a student	ESPNews	(:25) Guiding Light	1	l ·	Caribbean Workout	(:25) Guiding Light
6:00	Barney & Friends (EI)	overachiever down a peg.	CBS Evening News	(:13) General Hospital	Larry King Live	NBA Fastbreak	Body Shaping	(:13) General Hospital
6:30	Clifford the Big Red Dog (EI)		NBC Nightly News			High School Basketball Pow-	TIPical Mary Ellen	
7:00	Dragon Tales (EI)	Access Hollywood	Play With Me Sesame	Larry King Live	NewsNight With Aaron Brown	erade Jam Fest. From Cleve- land. (Taped)	The View	I Spy
7:30	Bob the Builder		Bear in the Big Blue House					Animaniacs
8:00	The Wiggles "The Party"	Entertainment Tonight	Connie the Cow	All Grown Up	BET Nightly News	ESPNews	Emeril Live	All Grown Up
8:30	Dora the Explorer Stanley "Woodpecker Woes"	Movie * * s "What Makes a	Wheel of Fortune Dr. Phil	Teen Kids News (EI) Jeopardy!	Tavis Smiley Hardball	ESPNews Tennis Pacific Life Open Day	30-Minute Meals	Teen Kids News (EI) Jeopardy!
9:00	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	Family" (2001) Brooke Shields.	Dr. Prilli	Headline News	naruuali	From Indian Wells, Calif.	Sweet Dreams	Headline News
10:00	Arthur "What Is That Thing?"	A lesbian fights her late lover's	(9:46) Oprah Winfrey	ESPNews	The O'Reilly Factor	(Taped)	Best for Less	ESPNews
10:00	Reading Rainbow (EI)	parents for child custody.	(:35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block	,	l	Stripped	Pacific Report
11:00	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	(10:46) Movie *** "Finding	1	Smallville "Covenant"	Nightline	ESPNews	E News	Smallville "Covenant"
11:30	Stanley	Forrester" (2000, Drama)	(:17) General Hospital	1	-	Tennis Pacific Life Open Day	The King of Queens	
12:00	Dora the Explorer	Sean Connery, Rob Brown, F. Murray Abraham.	Headline News	Movie ★★★% "The Hours"	Fox and Friends First	2. From Indian Wells, Calif.	That '70s Show	Movie * * * 5 "The Hours"
12:30	The Wiggles		Judge Judy	(2002, Drama) Meryl Streep.		(Taped)	Girlfriends "Into the Woods"	(2002, Drama) Meryl Streep. Three women in different eras
13:00	Bob the Builder	Movie * * "Au Pair" (1999)	Today Hairstyles.	Three women in different eras suffer emotional crises.	American Morning		Charmed "Size Matters"	Three women in different eras suffer emotional crises.
13:30	Dragon Tales (EI)	Gregory Harrison. A new nanny must deal with her employer's	l			SportsCenter		
14:00	Blue's Clues	must deal with her employers spoiled children.	l	Pacific Report	1		Strong Medicine	Pacific Report
14:30	Barney & Friends (EI)	,		The Tonight Show With Jay Leno		NBA Basketball Milwaukee Bucks at Miami Heat. From the		The Tonight Show With Jay Leno
15:00	Funniest Home Videos	(2:46) Movie ** "King Kong" (1976) Jeff Bridges. An	l Spy			AmericanAirlines Arena in Mia-	Any Day Now "Nothing Person-	
15:30	Growing Pains "Slice of Life" Pokémon "Navel Maneuvers"	oil mogul seeks to exploit a	Animaniacs All Grown Up	Late Show With David Letter- man	FOX News	mi. (Taped)	Third Watch "Childhood Memo-	Late Show With David Letter- man
16:00 16:30	Yu-Gi-Oh! (Part 1 of 2)	monstrous ape in New York.	Teen Kids News (EI)	The Late Late Show With	FUX News		ries"	The Late Late Show With
	Doug (EI)	The Entertainers	Jeopardy!	Craig Ferguson	FOX News	SportsCenter	Law & Order "Deep Vote"	Craig Ferguson
17:00 17:30	The Wild Thornberrys	The Littertainers	Jeopardy: Headline News	Dennis Miller	I OX INSWS	opor is Ceriter	Paw or Outnet. Treeh Antig.	Dennis Miller
17:30	The Fairly OddParents	Behind the Scenes	ESPNews	Dennis Miller	FOY Name	1	The Simpsons	Dennis Miller
18:00	Rugrats	Entertainment Tonight	Headline News	Countdown With Keith Olber-		l	Everybody Loves Raymond	Countdown With Keith Olber-
19:00	The Proud Family (EI)	Movie ** "Shaft" (2000,	Smallville "Covenant"	mann	DaySide With Linda Vester	1	Star Trek: Enterprise "The For-	mann
19:00	The Amanda Show	Action) Samuel L. Jackson. A		Access Hollywood	,	ESPNews	gotten'	Access Hollywood
20:00	Everwood "Daddy's Little Girl"	former cop vows to bring a	Movie *** "The Hours"	Headline News	FOX News	MLB Preseason Baseball Los	CSI: Miami "Ashes to Ashes"	Headline News
20:30	1	murderous racist to justice.	(2002, Drama) Mervl Streep.	Entertainment Studios.com	1	Angeles Angels of Anaheim at		Entertainment Studios.com
21:00	Sister, Sister	(8:47) Movie * * * "Out of	Three women in different eras suffer emotional crises.	The Hot List	Studio B With Shepard Smith	Chicago White Sox. From Tuc- son Electric Park in Tucson.	Mark Twain (Part 4 of 4)	The Hot List
21:30	Sister, Sister	Sight" (1998) George Clooney.	surier emotional crises.	Headline News	1	son Electric Park in Tucson, Ariz. (Live)		Headline News
22:00	The Cosby Show	A U.S. marshal falls for an es- caned con she must capture	Headline News	Good Morning America	Your World With Neil Cavuto	1 ' "",	Friends	Good Morning America
22:30	Home Improvement		The Tonight Show With Jay				Seinfeld "The Shower Head"	
22:30	Home Improvement Touched by an Angel "Moni- ca's Bad Day"	Movie ** "Hollow Man" (2000) Kevin Bacon.	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno Late Show-Letterman		Connected: Coast to Coast	Around the Horn Pardon the Interruption	Seinfeld "The Shower Head" Daily Show-Jon Stewart Blind Date	



FACES

From 'Sideways' to parting ways

Director Alexander Payne and wife Sandra Oh have gone from "Sideways" to parting ways, a spokeswoman told People magazine on Satur-



day. The Hollywood couple "have mutually decided to sen arate," the spokeswoman said.

"They will remain friends."

The couple met five years

ago and married in 2003 Payne wrote and directed "Sideways," the comedy about two friends on a wine-tasting road trip through California. Payne shared the Academy Award with his writing partner for Best Adapted Screenplay. Oh, a former co-star on

Rocker says he's happy to be drug free

Velvet Revolver frontman Scott Weiland says he is off drugs for good, according to the April issue of Esquire magazine



ond marriage crumble because of his addiction.

my last month, credits his sobriety of more than a year to seeing his sec-Weiland, 37, said his "preoccupa-

Weiland, whose band won a Gram

tion with catching a buzz" began in his early teens, when he began drinking liquor. He tried cocaine in high school and had moved on to heroin by the time he was 24 and touring with his previous group, Stone Tem ple Pilots, saying it made him feel safe and more confident about his music

Lancaster and Stewart

He said he was motivated to clean up his act and try to get his family back after two arrests in 2003 — one for her-oin and cocaine possession and the other for driving under the influence. "Right now, for the first time in my life, I'm finally happy," the singer told the magazine.

Stewart's marriage proposal accepted

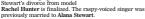
Rod Stewart has proposed to his longtime girlfriend at the top of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, Stewart's record company said Saturday

Record label BMG said Stewart, 60, went down on one knee and proposed to 33year-old Penny Lancaster at the French landmark on

Wednesday. She accepted. "I left it this long, because I wanted to get it right this time." Stewart said in a state-"I've never been happiment er and more in love than I am

Lancaster's agent, Nicholas Young, said the couple would make wedding plans once Stewart's divorce from model

today



PETA targets J.Lo's fur-wearing ways People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals wants Jen-

er Lopez to "Get Right" when it comes to fur Lopez introduced her Sweetface fashion collection during New York Fashion Week last month

"Please don't support Jennifer

Lopez or her bloody business," says a Web site — www,jlodown.com that the animal rights group has de voted to the singer, actress and now fashion designer. Calls seeking comment from Lo-

pez's publicist weren't immediately returned Friday.

The site encourages visitors to "write to J.Lo and tell her that promoting the violence of the fur industry is a low-down, dirty, rotten

"J.Lo knows what animals who







Courtesy of Twentieth Century For

Robin Williams provides the voice of the animated character Fender in the movie "Robots."

Robin Williams tuned in to 'toon role in 'Robots'

44 I love doing the

voices. I can

play and create.

You can't find

too many parts

that allow you

and it's easier to

look at muself.

Voice of Fender in 'Robots'

Robin Williams

such freedom -

BY NANCY MILLS New York Daily News

HOLLYWOOD n an ideal world, Robin Williams would have been born a cartoon.

After all, merely human roles rarely give him the A chance to free-associate, deliver dozens of accents and leap through his imagination the way no regular person ever does. And, let's face it, when he starts doing his shtick offstage, he occasionally wears out his welcome

With his outsize personality, it's little wonder that Williams has a serious affinity for the animated world. He even took a stand for SpongeBob SquarePants on Oscar night, arriving with his mouth taped shut because producers rejected his plan to sing a satirical song about the undersea char-

"They tell me now that SpongeBob is gay," Williams said, referring to a conservative religious group's criticism that the 'toon had a "pro-homosexual" agenda. "SquarePants is not gay," Williams told the Kodak Theatre crowd. "TightPants maybe. SpongeBob HotPants? You go, girl

When he took the role of the Blue Genie in 1992's "Aladdin," Williams crafted one of the most indelible characters in animation history.
But with "Robots," it's possible that Will-

iams addicts will begin calling him "Fender." Fender is Williams' first animated role since "Aladdin." The red robot with a coffeepot for a head may not look much like the 53-year-old comic, but they share a certain manic energy.

Fender is "a Skid Row bum, a man living

hand to foot who puts the 'funk' in dysfunctional," Williams says. He also talks nonstop - sound familiar? - and keeps losing body parts to

The performance makes use of Williams' hyperactivity without, as he puts it, "my having to train. Animators can

"You get a bit of carte blanche," he adds. "I love doing the voices. I can play and create. You can't find too many parts that allow you such freedom — and it's easier to look at myself.

Since he could easily supply the voices for an entire cast of animated characters, cartoons could be Williams' main source of income, if he didn't love doing standup comedy and making live-action movies. Two of the latter will open this year, the coming-of-age tale "House of D" (opening next month) and a black comedy, "The Big White."

Later this year, he'll start production on two more. One is the drama "The Night Listener," based on an Armistead Maupin story. The other is "RV," a comedy Williams says is about "a blue-state guy traveling in a red state."

For "Robots," director Chris Wedge says all he had to do was turn Williams loose.

"We'd bring Robin ideas and script pages, and he'd very politely read the words we'd written," Wedge says. "Then he'd start lifting off. He'd hit on something and go off for 20 minutes. The glass in the booth would be full of condensa-

Although Wedge admits, "We were able to use only about 1 percent of what he created," they did manage to include his riff on "Singin' in the Rain. And the eventual DVD outtakes will probably feature a

sequence in which Fender's unattached right hand tries to romance his equally on-the-loose left hand — in a heavy Hispanic accent.

Set in a computer-generated world inhabited by mechan-ical people, "Robots" tells the story of idealistic young Rodney Copperbottom (voiced by Ewan McGregor), who

dreams of being an inventor and sets off for the big city with his father's blessing. Naturally, his life does not go smoothly, even

with Fender as a close friend.

Williams related to the follow-your-dreams scenario, "I loved the scenes between Rodney and his father because of

my dad," he says.
"My dad told me, 'Do what you want to
do. I will help you. If you want to be an
actor, that's great. Just have a backup pro-"I actually went to one welding class,

and the guy teaching it had one eye be-cause he lost the other in a welding accident," he adds. "But my dad was good with support.

Thanks Dad " As a father of three — Zach. 21. Zelda.

15, and Cody, 13 — Williams is trying to be equally supportive.

"Zach is studying linguistics right now," he says. "Maybe he'll open a syntax repair shop. Maybe he'll work for a few years and then study law.

"Cody has got a real wry sense of humor," he adds. "He writes very layered, intense poetry. And Zelda has the voices." She'll appear with her father in "House of D."

After some troubled years in which he fought through drug addiction and a messy divorce, Williams seems to be at a peaceful point in his life. Even he has noticed that his

comic libido may finally be starting to ebb. "My wife, Marsha, says that if more than two people come into a room, I go into a certain mode," he says. "But

the older I get, the mode gets less like, 'Hello!' "It's tiring, but it's invigorating," he adds. "Drama is cathartic, but you feed off comedy. It builds you.

"And sometimes it works the other way. If an audience is not laughing, you'll feed off them - sometimes in an angry way, but sometimes in a challenging way. 'I can get these people. What is the key?

"Only later you find out they're deaf."

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Help for mental health

I am an Army Reserve social work officer, currently stationed in Iraq as part of the 1835th Medical Detachment (Combat Stress Control). I thank Stripes for the pa per's continued advocacy on mental health issues. In the past eight months I have been grateful to read the many articles educating soldiers about combat stress and post-traumatic stress disorder.

I am writing concerning the Feb. 28 arti cle titled "Guard's top NCO focuses on mental health of troops" (Mideast edition: Top NCO in Guard focuses on mental health of troops," European edition). I applaud Command Sgt. Maj. John D. Gipe's concern for soldiers on this issue.

Although the article continues to shine a otlight on the growing concern for men tal health care for soldiers, it failed to men-tion resources that are available for National Guard and Reserve soldiers. True, guardsmen and reservists can utilize men tal health programs on military installations, but they also are entitled to benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs. A variety of programs and services in mental health are available for all honorably discharged veterans. The VA offers both inpatient and outpatient psychiatric services programs that specialize in the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder or substance abuse, homeless veteran programs and vocational rehabilitation programs. These services are provided not only in large cities but also in smaller, community-based outpatient clinics.

Under Title 38 United States Code 1710(e)(1)(D) and Veteran Health Care Directive 2002-049, the Department of Veter an Affairs provides two years of health care (including mental health care) to all soldiers from their date of discharge, if they served in a combat zone. The two years of free care is regardless of whether the condition or illness was caused by military service. If the illness or injury is caused by military service, the veteran can submit a claim for service-connected disability. Once a veteran is service-connected for a condition, the VA can provide care without cost to the veteran

Although I am not an official VA spokesperson, I want to help get the message out to soldiers that these benefits are avail-

Bradley A. McClure Samarra, Iraa

U.S. winning war on terrorism

I am writing in response to the Feb. 24 column "Keeping enemy at bay substi-tutes for victory." Boston University professor Andrew J. Bacevich, back in Massachusetts, utterly fails to recognize, or fails to admit, that the war on terrorism is a new type of war in which old rules and measures don't necessarily apply.

"Victory" is something that historians will someday bestow on our current efforts. We have been extremely successful so far. The U.S. homeland has been largely free from a terrorist attack since the Sept. 11, 2001, sucker punch. Afghanistan, which used to be an open haven for terror-

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ists, has rejoined the civilized nations of the world. Libya has decided it prudent to change its terrorist-supporting ways. And Iraq fails to be the potential nexus be tween terrorists and weapons of mass destruction that it certainly was before the U.S. military efforts.

The insurgents in Iraq are losing and they know it. How do I know? Here in Baghdad, I talk with optimistic Iraqis daily. They understand that outsiders are coming into their country to cause trouble. These Iragis want what almost everyone else in the civilized world wants: a chance to live a peaceful life and provide for their family. The insurgents will never over-come this basic human desire.

If we stay the course, we will achieve peace, with justice, throughout the world. But it will probably take a generation or more of diplomacy, economic assistance and, where necessary, military action.

The professor feels it necessary to insult me and the majority of Americans who understand what's going on by claiming "reality has yet to fully sink in" and that I ntinue to snooze." We on the ground understand a lot that the professor, enjoying the peace and security that he would deny others, does not. It is, indeed, liberals like him who are going to make sticking with this effort even more difficult than it already is. I ask: Whose side are you really on, professor? Travis Hughs

Raghdad

Why black enlistments dropped

In response to the March 4 analysis "Study shows Army's black enlistments drop" by Tom Philpott: The spiral downfall in the number of African-Americans in all branches of the military is without a doubt due to all social and political ele ments that young African-American soldiers can't overcome due to pigmentation barriers and the command leadership.

The bonuses, educational benefits and all the other perks that come with enlistment and re-enlistment do not meet the standards of our pride and dignity. Some of us in theater are professionals in various career fields in the civilian world, but we will comply with our duties and obligations while wearing the uniform.

We African-American New have pride and not an ego; we step to the side until called upon because it is guaranteed that we have been exposed to the environment or situation at hand. I inform my solders that at death you won't leave

home, you'll be going home. In order to keep us from becoming too attached to the military, it allows us to feel a significant amount of discontent and dissatisfaction. We're not completely happy

here because we're not supposed to be.

Last but not least. African-Americans are now attending institutions of higher learning, as they've done in the past; African-Americans have open options for success - not just sports, dance and music. I've been blessed with a God of my understanding, a two-parent household and mentors to guide me in the path that enables me to see clearly what others miss or intentionally avoid, and sidestep.
Staff Sgt. Jay Ordonez

Camp Arifjan, Kuwait

Support for 'scientific theory'

I am sure Stripes editors are being bomam sure Stripes editors are being both-barded by pro-creationists again, so here I am again to address reality vs. belief. Bravo for [Lakenheath Middle School sci-ence teacher] Greg Klaes for holding ground on evolution as scientific theory in the March 6 article "DODDS parents, teachers debate evolution vs. creationism" (Europe edition

Schools need to reinforce what scientific method is, and why we need to separate re-ality from belief. Scientific method relates to data that is verifiable (real) and reliable (repeatable). We need to teach what is real in the schools, as opposed to the various beliefs that people have. Since our schools teach everyone from varying back-grounds, we must stick with scientific method at school.

For religion to "stop at the classroom door," to quote Klaes, is fitting, proper and respectful to all. America has too much diversity to become a theocracy around the beliefs of any one group. Sandra Grev

Vilseck, Germany

Keep insightful 'Doonesbury'

After reading the recent rant (Trudeau strip a 'piece of crap,' " letter, Feb. 28) against the marvelously insightful, frequently irreverent and always entertain-"Doonesbury" comic ing "left-wing-subcutaneous-slandering

piece-of-crap"), I am reminded of a quote from a small Vermont newspaper editor. While not intending to impugn the author of the rant, that Vermont editor wrote, One of the values of the letters to the editor section of a newspaper is that it can open the mouths of fools."

Keep "Doonesbury" and your letter to

the editor section. Both provide a great ser vice in support of freedom of speech and the press for which we are all fighting. Lt. Col. Grant Doty

Baghdad

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury







OPINION

Painful truth is, Bush's declaration untrue

resident Bush declared in his State of the Union address, "Torture is never acceptable, nor do we hand over people to countries that do torture." Considering what's come to light since then the most charitable conclusion is that Bush is completely out of the

In recent weeks, past and present admin-istration officials have confirmed that since September 2001 the Central Intelli gence Agency has dispatched between 100 and 150 terror suspects to countries where fine points of law and human rights don't ston beatings, drugging or long isolation.

Before the Sept. 11 attacks, the CIA occasionally engaged in this indefensible practice, known as "extraordinary rendition." But afterward, Bush gave the agency wider license to export prisoners in terror-related cases who hadn't been tried or even charged with any crime. Desnite his State of the Union declaration, the president apparently has not revoked that au-

U.S. law and international conventions bar sending prisoners to another nation unless there are strong assurances of humane treatment

The CIA says with a straight face that it gets those assurances before delivering suspects to jailers in Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Pakistan — countries that have such abysmal human rights records that promises of decent treatment

Bush has argued that tough new rules of engagement are necessary to fight stateless terrorists. But morality aside, what intelligence of value have U.S. officials gleaned from suspects who've been handed off to modern-day dungeons?

A case in point: In 2002, federal agents arrested Maher Arar, a Syrian-born Cana-dian engineer, at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York because his name appeared on a terrorist watch list. Although Arar insisted that he was not a terrorist the United States delivered him to Syrian interrogators. After months in a windowless room and regular beatings with thick electric cables, he said, he confessed to anything they wanted just to stop the torment. A year later. Arar was released without charges.

This barbarism is why U.S. judges have refused to condone the indefinite detention of terrorism suspects. Yet the military still holds about 500 foreign nationals at the U.S. base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Most have not been charged and have no lawyer. often after years in custody

Two American citizens have been held in military brigs. The evidence against U.S.-born Yaser Esam Hamdi was so flimsy that last year federal agents packed him off to his family in Saudi Arabia rather than present their case in court. This month, a federal judge ordered the administration to charge the second. Jose Padilla.

WE'RE REWRITING THE FIRST AMENDMENT ON FREEDOM OF SPEECH TO READ...



...WE HAVE WAYS OF MAKING OUTSOURCING TORTURE without access to a lawyer, it's doubtful his

or release him within 45 days. Government lawyers say interrogations produced a lot about Padilla's activities, including his relationship with al-Qaida leaders and his plans to blow up high-rise buildings.

Attorney General Alberto Gonzales said last week he may still prosecute him. But because most of Padilla's disclosures occurred while he was in military custody. statements would be admissible in court. These are only the practical issues. The

more haunting problem with Bush's war on terrorism remains the moral one: A nation that considers itself a beacon of freedom seems unable to practice the respect for law and human rights it ardently preaches to others.

Contra-indicated: Ortega again in Nicaragua mix

f you think the Bush administration has enough troubles in Latin America dealing with leftist autocrats in Cuba and Venezuela, consider this: A radical former revolutionary leader may be making a come-

Andres Oppenheimer



back in Nicaragua. Daniel Ortega, the Sandinista president who after the 1979 revolution confiscated the mansion of a wealthy businessman in the name of social justice and immediately moved in, recently crushed a massive movement within his party to

hold primary elections, and had himself declared presidential candidate for the November 2006 elec-

In Washington, Latin America watchers aren't amused: Ortega — in a rare power-sharing alliance with rightist former President Arnoldo Aleman who is facing charges of illicit enrichment - already controls the Supreme Court, the electoral tribunal, the Comptroller's General of fice and Congress.

Although his negative ratings in Nicaragua are sky-high and his well-organized Sandinista party has historically had a hard time reaching out beyond its 35 percent hard-core support, Ortega could conceivably win next year's elections.

"Right now, he is in a very strong position," a senior U.S. official told me last week, "All he has to do is run against a divided field, and he is in.

Unlike the leftist presidents of Brazil, Uruguay and Chile, Ortega has shifted back to his radical 1980s rhetoric, and to what many describe as vintage Stalinist practices

Late last month, Ortega staged an inter

nal coup within his party, and expelled popular former Managua Mayor Herty Lewites, who was mounting a challenge to win the party's presidential nomination.

Lewites, who was tourism minister during the Sandinista regime in the 1980s and was elected Managua mayor in 2000, is the country's most popular politician

A recent poll by Borge v Asociados shows that Lewites would win a general election with 40 percent of the vote. Among Sandinista sympathizers, he gets 75 percent of the vote, with 18 percent for

Lewites called for a massive Sandinista rally March 6 to protest Ortega's internal coup, but Ortega had a sympathetic court deny him a permit to hold the demonstration. Lewites is challenging the Sandinista expulsion order, and has accused Ortega's goon squads of trying to kill him in a March 3 incident in front of a court where he was summoned to appear

When I called Lewites last week, I got a message on his cellphone saving, "This is

your future president." In an interview later that day, he said his troubles with Ortega started recently, "when Daniel [Ortega] saw that the public squares didn't belong to him anymore, after our massive (pro-Lewites) rallies in late February."

Ortega compared the popular ex-mayor with former Presidents Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin, who Ortega said had committed "crimes against humanity" by destroying the Soviet Union. Lewites countered by charging that Ortega's hard-line backers had recently sold properties and made other business transactions worth more than \$3.8 million

"Where did they get that kind of money from?" Lewites asks

"Facing these accusations, and knowing that I could prove them, they decided to shut up, and expel me from the party.

"This is a fight between an ultra-radical orthodox wing of the party, and a democratic wing," Lewites says. "We're not denying that we will be a leftist government. But it will be a leftist government a la [Chilean President Ricardo] Lagos, or [Brazilian President Luiz Inaciol Lula da Silva.

Ortega is paying a price for his refusal to hold primary elections. Top Sandinista leaders are now backing Lewites.

"This is the most serious challenge Ortega has ever faced within his party," says Carlos Fernando Chamorro, a former Sandinista newspaper editor who publishes Confidencial, a political newsletter.

Still, Ortega's ruthless tactics may pay off. While Lewites is ahead in the polls, it's doubtful he could run a successful independent candidacy without the 500,000-member Sandinista party machinery

My conclusion: If the conservative parties are stupid enough — or corrupt enough - to field several candidates, Ortega could win. Nicaragua's democracy is already being kidnapped by a rightist-leftist alliance of mafiosi, and the Bush administration could soon have a major new headache in the region.

Andres Oppenheimer is a Latin America correspondent for The Miami Herald

Mallard Fillmore

AND IN OTHER NEWS, FOR tHOSE WHO ARE INCESSANTLY WIGHING HAT WE WERE MORE LIKE KICK OFF EUROPE,

By BRUCE TINSLEY



BUT UNTIL I DECIDE TO DO THAT: THE WALK!

Horoscope

The sun and Pluto have a tense relationship, strained further by the pressure of a distant ticking clock that rushes us along. Parents are hyper-aware of their children's rate of development. Teens are concerned with grown-up issues, and grown-ups are

farther along in life by now?" Use the question as motiva-TODAY'S RIRTHDAY (March 14). Love is the

saving, "Shouldn't I he

magic that keeps you motivated this year. Once you connect with your kindred spirit, you spark a fire that has the potential to burn eternally. Stand up for your ideas in May when you're met with challenge, and vou'll prevai both artistically and financially. As long as you know you're right, whatever they may think or do can't possibly matter.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

All is well in your special relationship as long as you stay tuned to your inklings. In business, sensitize yourself to early warning signs that a deal isn't for you. Beware of someone who has no conscience.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're a regular disturber of the peace! Finally, people are paying attention, though perhaps not in the way you intended. This evening, loved ones impart info that strikes at your very core. Take the time to process it

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's now in vogue to use the word "amazing" to describe even the most ordinary pleasant interaction. However, today, you'll have an exchange that truly is amazing - your jaw will drop, and you'll have to catch your

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You were gifted with psychic intu

ition for a reason, so use it - perhaps to leave that bad boyfriend/girlfriend before you even meet. One good decision affects your whole

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The gods of love are smiling on you. But for the many Leos who are now in

the middle of an important deal, it's important to separate yourself from the outcome — vou're holding on so tight that your desire is getting stran-

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're the Pollyanna of the group



23-Oct. 23). You look around at your team and wonder, "How did I get lumped in with them? And when you consider what higher-ups are

doing, you can't help but be stunned by the hypocrisy of it all. Be the truth

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Sigmund Freud felt that guilt and remorse are often confused, the former stemming from aggressive wishes, the latter a form of self-punishment for the wish fulfilled. Fither emotion is useless today. Get over

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec 21). The mythological centaur that is the symbol of your sign was considered both an uncouth, savage beast and a friendly teacher of men. Both of these sides of your nature will be represented today

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.

19). Though everyone around seems to be doing the same thing striving for the same goal, it's about time you identified what is unique about you. It's the only way you'll get the powers that he to take notice

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your curiosity could lead you into a precarious position. Stick around and ask enough questions, and you may be initiated into a mystery of some kind. Watch your step, though, since you won't be able to forget

what you learn. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're a solitary thinker. Decision-making by committee isn't for you right now - in fact, that process irritates you. Ask for all the room you need to work out the problem you're

facing.

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Peanuts

hreath





















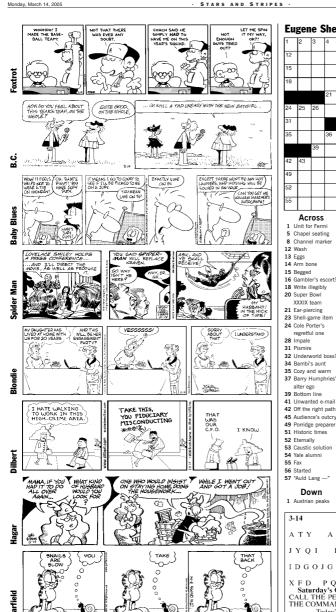
Bailey











Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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Across

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- 14 Arm bone
- 16 Gambler's escort?
- 18 Write illegibly
- 20 Super Bowl
- 21 Ear-piercing
- 23 Shell-game item
- 24 Cole Porter's
- regretful one
- 31 Pismire
- 32 Underworld boss?
- 34 Bambi's aunt
- 37 Barry Humphries'
- alter ego
- 39 Bottom line
- 42 Off the right path
- 45 Audience's outcry
- 49 Porridge preparer
- 51 Historic times
- 52 Eternally
- 53 Caustic solution
- 54 Yale alumni
- 56 Started
- 57 "Auld Lang —"
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- 38 Hosts 40 Bill

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- 46 Paris airport
- 47 Picnic
- spoiler 48 Existence.
- to Caesar
- 50 Sailor's assent

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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CRYPTOOUIP

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АТ NGTSYH Saturday's Cryptoquip: I SUPPOSE YOU MIGHT CALL THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF A ROBBERY THE COMMANDER-IN-THIEF

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals C

Kissing co-worker unprofessional

Dear Abby: I am a

69-year-old grandfather with a good sense of humor and am partly bald. I wear XXL shirts

and have a 46-inch tummy, chub-by cheeks and an occasional limp. I still work in an office where the love of my life, my wife of 40 years, is also Dear Abby

employed. My problem is the firm hired a 50ish married woman who likes men I'll call her "Snuggles. Snuggles wants hugs, gives kisses, and demands to know all the particulars of her fellow employees' lives. I believe this to be innocent on her part, but her brazen behavior really is

offensive Yesterday was my birthday and she kissed me twice on the cheek. It was the fourth time in

the last two weeks.

And yes, I did tell her no more kisses, but I'll bet that only lasts a week or so. When I got home I washed my face and asked my wife to kiss me so that if I died in my sleep, my wife would have been the last woman with whom I shared a kiss

Since Snuggles is a recent hire I don't want to get her in trouble. But, golly gee, I thought I was the one to do the sexual harassing

- Honey Bear in Highland Park, Ill. Dear Honey Bear. Whether or not what

"Snuggles" is doing is called sexual harass ment, her behavior is not acceptable in a business environment Using co-workers as a source of, or outlet for, physical affection is inappropriate.

If she persists, you should document the incidents and discuss the matter with your

boss, your supervisor, or the person in charge of human resources for your company

Dear Abby: Three of us were recently in Manhattan and found ourselves walking behind a blind woman who used a walking stick

We didn't know if we should offer to assist her, or if she would have felt offended. There was scaffolding ahead and the front stens of several buildings pro

truded onto the sidewalk, although she managed to navigate around them without problems. What is considered good manners in a situation like this?

- Visitors to N.Y.C. Dear Visitors: It is never offensive to verbally offer assistance to someone. However, a blind per-son using a cane usually has been trained to "detect" objects that

might obstruct his or her path. The reason I say "verbally offer assistance is that some people make the mistake of trying to help blind people by taking their arm and trying to propel them. I have been told that if a blind person accepts an offer of help, he or she would

prefer to take the arm of the helper rather than vice versa Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate

one letter to each square.

to form four ordinary words

KOBOR

NOOLC

CARBIE

SUTTOM

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion Unscramble these four Jumbles



FIZZLED Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Jumbles: Answer

(Answers tomorrow) WOEFUL

IMBUE MOTIVE What they needed to listen to the book on tape - VÓLUME VOLUME

Handle past affair with class

Dear Annie: Five years ago, I took a painting class, "Raymond the teacher, was exceptional, and the warm supportive environment he created allowed me to have a breakthrough that changed not only how I felt about myself, but also about my ability to create art. I am eternally grateful to him.

A year after the class ended. I ran into Raymond at an art gallery. I was thrilled when he offered to look at some of my recent paintings.

While at my house, however, he made a pass at me. I was shocked (he's married), but I admit I allowed things to happen because I was so appreciative of his interest. We had five such meetings over the next two years, until I worked up the courage to end it. Raymond accepted my decision, but continued to stay in touch via phone and e-mail

Over time, our contact dwindled to a phone call every few



It was at this point that his wife, "Lorna," discovered my existence. Raymond told her about our affair, and she called me. I made it very clear that the relationship had been a mistake, and I assured her I would not remain in contact with him. I have abided

by that promise, as has

Here's the problem: I would like to attend an upcoming art workshop where Raymond will be one of the teachers, but I'm

sure Lorna will be there, too. - Trying to Move On

in New England Dear Trying: It seems as if you've painted yourself right into a corner. If you insist on attending this particular workshop, you will need to conduct yourself as if nothing is going on - because nothing is. Politely say hello to

Raymond and Lorna when you

see them, and then keep right on

Dear Annie: I am 14. In September, my brother left to go to college, and ever since, there as been no excitement at home My brother was the clown of the house. He always made me

laugh, and I miss him a lot I'm fine and full of energy at school, but as soon as I get home, I just look sad. My parents com plain that I stay outside all the time, but I don't get why they can't figure out the reason. Every morning I wake up without my brother, it's not a fun day

- Lonely Brother

Dear Brother: It's tough when a sibling leaves home, but there are ways to adjust.

Invite some friends over after school to play games, watch TV, whatever. Your brother isn't so far away that you can't IM or call and before you know it, he'll be home to visit. This is your chance to be the center of attention. Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, Iongtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox/ecomcast.net or write to: Annie's Mailbox, comcast.net or write to: Annie's Mailbox, Coreators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd, Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

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Family Circus



"... And thy grandmother."

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26,400 miles, excellent condition, brand new Z rated tires,
tinted windows, xenon light, 6
speed manual, 3.5L V6 255HP,
Baumholder area, \$17,500
06783 185228 Nissan Maxima '99 SE Limited edition, Silviblik, 5 spd, US spec, 1 owner, non-smoker, 5 spd, 1 owner, non-smoker, non-smoker ddauti, orricher, 5 spa, fully loaded, moon roof, car in excellent cond 100k miles, prem wheels, 5 9,200 call Tel. 01726912767

Nissan Terrano '90 2.7 turbo diesel JAP spec, 96k mi w 4x4 A lots of new parts \$3,200 located in KTOWN call day or night 01602905596 Opel Astra '01 1.8, 5spd., 80,000km, CD Changer, Electric

Opel Astra '01 Convertible, mrage/silver, 1.6L, 56K km, 5 spd, '100 hp. cdichanger, leath-er, euro 13,900 or \$19,000, call Tel. 0179-5954449 Opel Astra '02 Station Wagon, 2.0TDI, 137,000km, CD. AT: Fog Lights, Full-Size Spare Galage Maintained, Winte Tires, \$9.500 obo. 06206-12815

OPEL CALIBRA '91 2 doors coupe alu wheels with all

Autos for Sale 142

Pontiac Bonneville SE '94, 4 door loaded, Mileage Is of the polysome of the po Porsche 924 '85 W ondition, german obo PCS'ing, 07151-8400

97031-419915, or e-mill at joustine Merhamil.com
P.T. Cruiser 13 black.Limited Edition, loaded and in mirl condition with sunroct, 6 CD owners, 151,500 miles, 913,500 mile Tr Cruiser '04 GT 2.4L Eng High Output Turbo, Automatis Power everything, Cruise, AIC Black Leather Int. Heate Saats, Keyless Ertly, Moor Root, Red 12,000 ml, Istil under warranty, Bise new \$18,500.06181-559425

Seat Ibiza '00 euro, red, 5 spc pd, ac, alarm, abs, summer/win ter tires, exc cond 35K km \$6,000 call 06782-107133 SEAT Marbella '80, white, great 2nd car, 4 extra tires, 380 éuro fiert aid kit and triangle, Al/Elis

Suzuki JS 99 2.0 S.TOP (2WD) 5-5 P. AC. C.D. P.W. P.D. AWW (63.000 MILES) 4,800 OBO. Call D621-7245060 OF 06217246060 Toyota Corolla '99 German spec. 255 Km. drv airbag, ac. at. pis. pl. exicl cond. snowlines, 5,6300 do Volvo 850R '96, Graphite Grey 240hp, exc cond, buying new Volvo, \$7500, DSN 385-2048. Volvo S60 '04 R AWD CI Changer, Navigation, Integrate Phone, traction Control, 300 HP All the Extras, \$29,000 obo, Ph 0160-531-4858 Volvo V40 2002 loaded, dark hise. 27.000 miles, \$16,000

blue, 27,000 miles, 910,000 -06221-7512993 Volvo V70 '04 2.5T AWD 24K excl condition , auto/geartronic Sports Climate Versability Pkgs \$28,500 obo, call 09841682950 transmission, air-condi power windows, power excellent condition, rea little car. \$10,500 0 6 1 2 3 - 6 0 5 8 6 3 VW Beetle '99, 2.0l, 115hp, 2n owner, USspec with germar brief, 5spd, black, ac, pwr-all alarm, tinted windows, summer and winter tires, 28Kmi, good cond, \$8900 obo, 0179-7450920

new brakes, winter-s \$3,500 o.b.o. 0179-100-1690

158

Buses/Vans/RVs

percodence to -connect de Mercodes Benz Hymer-Mobil RV1995, fully loaded, diesel, 4, spd auto. sieseps 5, centr. heat, stove, 3 way findly, shower, tollet, comes with vespa scooler and mount. \$16,500 stegal of 0.4 8 + 9.5 z 2 1.5 pt 16.5 0.6 0.4 8 + 9.5 z 2 1.5 pt 16.5 0.179-716-3262

RV Chevy Tioga '78, 23',5.7' gas V 8, dually, 220 volt ac/ heat, kit, bath, 3 beds, 2 kw gen, \$5k, email: motorads @ aol.com

Venture LS 98 pw.pm.cd.am/fm, new tires dir maint \$5,300obo day or night any time call 0972-6907046 leave msg if not home

Classic Autos 160

NISSAN 300ZX '95 2+2, T-Top Loaded, Bose 3-CD in dash AMM stereo, One owner, like new, 66,500 miles, garaged \$13,500 call 0160-939-68362 or DSN 371-3364 OPEL GT '71 "Mini Corvette" 1.9L engine, 4 speed transmis-sion, bflight yellow, restored \$8,500 call, 06181-569425 Plymouth FuryIII '65 Converti-ble, Poly 318 V-8, AT, PS, Manual Brakes, Needs Re-stored, Extra Parts \$3500 call 06371-16704

The Original CJ 7 Jeep '83, soft & hard top/doors, needs little work, asking \$3500 phone: Palph 06224 77282 Motorcycles

BMW R1200C '03 Cruiser, US specs, 1100 mi. \$10k OBO. Near Wiseok: call Chris & 0172-617-5643 BUELL THUNDERBOLT 'S3' 97 us spec, hol 1200 cc v-twin, black, low miles, never down, new parts - extras \$3,400 idc4mhcmsn.com (39) 0771-639-081.

Suzuki 650 2002 savage moto cycle, accessories included \$3000.00 obo call: 0151 1424 GSX-1300 SUZUKI '01 HAYA-RUSA MINT CONDITION 2.200 HD '97 883 Hugger, Custom flame paint, lots of custom parts, 3000 miles \$7500 obo call 0630-7401655

Hyosung '04 125cc Street legal and great for dirt and trails. 70 MPH: Less than \$1,000 miles on it, almost brand new. 0931 66 053 66 after 1900 hrs. Price is \$2,000 not negotiable \$2,000 not negotiable

\$52,000
Motorcycles 164 r, Windshield, H s, Highway Boards gs, Drag Pipes, Pas

Looking for used crwiser mc. german specs, 3-6 old, max 25.000 miles. ca DSN 351-4559 ev SUZUKI Bandit 600 '96, US Spec 17k mi, many new parts new tires, red, dynojet kit, \$3000 obo. Call 0176-29738644.

Suzuki Bandit S 600, US Spec Only 2k mi, Black wChrome, Garage Kept, Protessionally Maintained Like New! With 2 Heimets, Available after March 20th, CALL ANYTIME

Sport Utility Vehicle 172

manual, factory warrant 21,000 miles, \$28,500 pleas call 09826-659575 (leave msg Chevy Trail Blazer 2004 north

Chevy \$10 Blazer LS 4.3L Vortec V6 4X4 31" BF Goodrich "Bala Champ" tires custom grill

Ford Explorer Sport Trac 'C black, automatic,23,000 mile extra winter tires, \$20,000 ob call barbara 0176-2011-7456 Toyota Tacoma 4x4 2005 d-cab all opt 26,000 obc 017-0367-1684 or 466-2242 JEEP Grand Cherokee 4X4, us specs, 110K, cond. V6, auto trans load top carrier incl, \$7,200, 06227-54-5783 lv msg. Jeep Grand Cherokee LTD 2001, 36k ml, 4wd v8 4.7l, blk, leather, heated seats, prem. sound, 10cd, sunroof, more. Insp. oct. \$20k IIrm. 0175-927-8999. plcs-brian. modowelld us.ammy.ml

Jeep Cherokee '92 Laredo U.S spec. 53K miles, excellent cond \$ 3,800 or euro 2,850 call ch ph. 06131-45086

Jeep Wrangler '98 Sport 4.0L 6 Cyl, 83,000mi, Hard and Soft Top, CD, Soundbar, AVC, 4WD, Great Condition, One Owner 59,500. Spanodshilem Area. Call 06580 913 782

360 Computers

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630

STRIPES CLASSIFIED

Furniture

Sport Utility Vehicle 172 Land Rover '00 Discovery Series II, dk. Gm/tan leather FULLY LOADED, tow package grill guard, running boards fedisk CD. Harmon Kardor ound, rare Safari rack, 68K mi \$17K obo . 0160-252-9983

Land Rover Discovery SE 97, loaded, slv, dual sunroof, full time awd, superb cond, auto, \$8,200. call: 08821-949-100

san Xterra '00 SE US Spec, Range Rover 4x4 1988 4dr. with kenwood cd player, good running cond, just passed in-spection 3,000 obo please call

VW Touareg, 2004, V-8, Blue 19,900 miles, factory 19 wheels, leather, perfect condi-tion, must sell, save \$6,000 at only \$36,995, 0162-296-0240

Trucks 174 Chevy custom. cab c-15 truck 1966 black, 327 v-8, auto. fleetside-long bed, all orig. no rust, arizona truck. \$14,500 stegallt-orilne.de for pics. call 0 6 0 4 8 - 9 5 2 - 2 1 8 or 0179-716-3262

Michelin Energy MXV4 Plus tires, 205%5HR-16, set of 4. Brand new, never used. Original Equipment on 3 Series BMW. \$122 each retail, asking \$375 for the set of 4. 09720-951748 Need 1995 Isuzu, Rodeo parts any info appreciated! help! 0162-163-0365

dodge neon, \$30. please call 0 7 1 5 - 7 5 3 - 2 2 8 3 o r

tires 215-60-15 for sale set of 4 mounted on oem nissar \$50.00, 0172-778-7779 as, set of four fulda 205-55-15 s that fit nissan-honda i

Need Your Transmission of Engine Overhauled? Call Joh 0711-843794

200

Baby Items

210

tired of being a pal tanning bed, 110 v. so y take it stateside, in the carton. a bargain at 0160-939-68362 06224-767-214 in bd. Bicvcles

Loving German Day Mother will care for your infant or todder in her home. Located in Ofter-sheim, 5 min. from PHV, 15 min. from MTV. Please call 0.6.2.0.2.5.1.3.2.4 or

Wanted- Responsible and ma-ture babysitter for well behaved 7 year old child in Baumholder. Mostly weekends. Earn up to \$7.00 per hr with proof of ACS or Red Cross certification. Call 06783-1892155, 6-9 PM. Live in Nanny wanted for 5-year-old child, English speak-ing, exp. preferred, call 0173-7044421 or 0611-4200406

COMPUTERS NO MONEY DOWN

. LOW PAYMENTS! Modem build by AGFEC sale. \$100.00 call Mat 01702176774 large capacity power transfe ers, 1600w and 3000w, \$50 \$75 respectively, please 0 7 1 5 - 7 5 3 - 2 2 8 3

510

360

Wanted and good running PC that does NOT have XP soft-ware will concider trading for older PC and getting rid of my new pc with xp software ph 0611-9277699

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Antique Oak Drop Leaf Table w/4 antique oak chairs. Excellent condition. \$500 or best offer. Tel: 06198-1821

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DSN 349-8376

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Wts. \$200.00 Pioneer 25 Dist CD Player \$75.00 Call-06151

7 Month Old Full breed Maltese Shitzu (Female) with medical records and shots. \$250 call Jessie 09641924958

Jobs Offered CYCLETECHS

i4-0275
suder set, dresser with mirror drawer chest, 2 nig ands, \$200, antique gent bile set for 6 persons (4 set in living room carpet white-gi wood finger-tooth inlays. VD2 (Mid) tickups. Out-nd sounding Irg living room carpet whi color \$30. obo.

510

or sale: 6 Bob Timberlaki ood Windsor chairs, two with rms. 450 euro. Cal 2224-147720, Heidelberg Fo ale: 6 old French wood chain ith leather seats. 125 euro all 06224-147720, Heidelberg

anted - stroller, infant cars

new, used privately in post housing , only 1 year old. washer \$300.00, dryer \$250.00, together \$500.00, paid 800 euros. Call Amy at 01758283084

2 beautiful brand new hand woven wool rugs from tunisia. 90,000 knots per sq meter. 400,00e per rug or 700,00e for both. call 06307-401-208 or 01799-199-427

german wardrobe - light woo w-mirrors, 2m 70, \$600 ob night stands, dresser, armoir light wood, \$250 ox 06205-202-980

Home Electronics 570

wiremote control, Picture in picture and many other options Purchased 2 yrs. ago for ove \$1200.00, dual voltage (45wx50L) \$800.00 cal

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standing playing and sounding guitar Excellent condition \$400.00 Call 0175-596-7233

nces, oriental rug, baby furniture, transformers. Fans ,220 volt, \$10.00 each, lamp \$5.00. fish tank, \$30.00, 2 window unit air conditioners,120 volt, \$100.00 ea, Call Amy at 01758283084

Hot tub portable, 220v, convertible, \$1200, four antique second players \$400-1000, electric wheelchair 25 miles before recharge, goes up and down curbs & steps, \$3000; antique chairs, \$35-100; Call

transformers ditioner \$250, ckpot \$20, cessor \$15, '50, infant car condition best 202-6070942

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Professional relocating to Warr-rung and Marca Seeing N/S formats of Marca Seeing N/S formats N/S (2011) 1997 (1997) 1

2 yr. old lemon beagle for sale. \$500 with extras, house trained and good with kids, please call 0 6 1 5 1 - 1 5 2 - 4 4 6 6 or 0173-173-5402 ask for Miranda

820

FRENCH POODLE MINIATURE for/sale (small-breed) 4-months,

Horse for Sale- Sorrel Warm blood Gelding, 5 yr old, 15.2hh 2 months Professional Westen Reining Training. Could also genglish/jumping. A steal a \$3500 OBO. Intermediate ride Looking for a kitten, prefferably short hair, for not much money: (0611-705-360-7824) cell

Wanted: female kitten; prefera-bly less than 6 mths old. Will

Pet Grooming

Giant Schnauzer puppies Salt-&Pepper, wormed, with shots&-papers, also pure ShiTzu, Pug. French Bull Dog pups, wormed & shots call 0175-6435474

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Sporting Goods

2002 Specialized HardRock P A1 FS. 23' frame (big bike Clipless and cage pedals, wil-less cyclocomputer include Ridden 1 summer. \$300. Al-Minoura HyperRim Alu Indo-trainer, \$80. 0160-9265-7211 (big bike) pedals, wire ir included \$300. Als

Sporting Goods Nordic Tracker Walk Fit. Self Powered Tread Mil. Almost new condition. Great for the Motiva-ted \$125 OBO Tel: 06181-53918

Nth of Garmisch Hot tub/saun 3eur PP, DBL occp, free bridt dogs welcome. 08824-9120 www.forsthaus-oberau.de

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FRENCH RIVIERA LUXURY APT 35km west of St Tropez o sea. Sand beach, pool, g large terrace, fully equip 1700 per wk. Call(703)689

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SCOREBOARD

AFN TV & Radio

Tuesday

AFN-Sports, 6:30 a.m.-High school basket-ball: Jam Fest (Slam Dunk, Three-Point, and Feam Ball Finals) (dll). AFN-Sports, 7:30 a.m.-College basketball: NCAN Women's Tournament Special (dld). AFN-Sports, 2:30 p.m.-NBA: Milwaukee at Miami (dll).

AFN-Sports, 6 p.m.-Outdoors: Wal-Mart FLW Tour (dld). FLW Tour (dld).

AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.-Baseball: Spring Train-ing, L.A. Angels vs. Chicago White Sox.

Wednesday

AFN-Sports and Radio, 1 a.m. College bas-ketball: NCAA Tournament Play-In Game. AFN-Atlantic, 1 a.m. College basketball: NIT first-round game. IT first-round game. AFN-Sports, 3 a.m.-College baskeball: NIT rst-round game. AFN-Atlantic, 3 a.m.-Motor racing: Champi-nship Off-Road Racing, Topeka Races 2 and

3 (both did).
ARN-Sports, 6:30 a.m.-Outdoors: Babe
Winkelman's Good Fishing (did).
ARN-Sports, noon-NBA: Minnesota at Dallas (did).
ARN-Sports, 5:30 p.m.-Auto racing: Nextel
Cup UAV-Daimler Chrysler 400 (did).
ARN-Sports, 9 p.m.-Tennis: Pacific Life
Open, women's quarterfinals.

All times are Central European Time; dld in dicates delayed listing. All listings are sub-ject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for more information.

Baseball

Spring training glance AMERICAN LEAGUE

Pct. .700 .667 .667 .625 .500 .444 .417 .400 .400 Cleveland Los Angeles Tampa Bay Toronto Detroit Baltimore Boston Chicago Kansas City Texas Minnesota Oakland .333 8 NATIONAL LEAGUE Pct. .750 .727 .667 Colorado San Francisco .636 .600 .545 Arizona Chicago New York Pittsburgh Washington Cincinnati Los Angeles Philadelphia .545 .500 .500 .500 .454 .400 .364 .364 .333 Florida San Diego

San Diego
Houston
NOTE: Split-squad games co
standings; games against non-m
teams do not. Saturday's games
Minnesota 4, Toronto 1
Tampa Bay 6, Boston 4
Washington 6, Florida 3
Detroit 4, Atlanta (ss) 3
Houston 7, Cleveland 3
L.A. Dodgers (ss) 0, Baltimore
ninos

ltimore 0. tie. 10 in nings N.Y. Mets (ss) 5, L.A. Dodgers (ss) 5, tie, 11 innings Philadelphia (ss) 10, Atlanta (ss) 9, 10 in

"Philideciphia (ss) 10. Atlanta (ss) 9, 10 initial buryle (ss) 12. Circinata (ss) 2, 10 initial buryle (ss) 15. Circinata (ss) 12. With Med Sciss 10. Losis 7. With Med Sciss 10. Losis 10

Fla. Florida vs. L.A. Dodgers at Vero Beach, Fla. Cleveland vs. Cincinnati at Sarasota, Fla. Toronto vs. Tampa Bay at St. Petersburg,

Fla. Atlanta vs. St. Louis (ss) at Jupiter, Fla. Baitimore (ss) vs. Washington at Viera

Fla. Pittsburgh vs. Philadelphia at Clearwater, Pittsburgri vs. Frinado.,..... Fla. St. Louis (ss) vs. Baltimore (ss) at Fort Lau-derdale, Fla.

Seattle vs. Texas at Surprise, Ariz. Chicago Cubs vs. LA. Angels at Tempe, Ariz.

riz.

Oakland (ss) vs. San Diego at Peoria, Ariz.
Arizona (ss) vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix
Colorado vs. Chicago White Sox at Tucson,

Ariz. Arizona (ss) vs. Oakland (ss) at Phoenix Kansas City vs. San Francisco at Scotts-

College baseball

Saturday's scores

EAST Canisius 5-5, UMBC 4-6 Delaware St. 6-6, Binghamton 3-3 George Mason 8-7, Fairfield 2-2 Stonehill 20, Post, Conn. 0 Stony Brook 5-8, Delaware 3-0 Vermont 6-5, George Washington 4-4

SOUTH
Alabama St. 14-7, Jackson St. 9-36
Army 13, Columbia 0
Auburn 12, VMI 0

Alabama S., 1.47., Jackson St. 9-36 Auburn 12, Villa Auburn 12, Villa Auburn 12, Villa Auburn 12, Villa Belmont 5-11, Bockford 92-31, Auturn Call St.-Villatford 93-31, Auturn Call St.-Villatford 93-31, Auturn Call St.-Villatford 93-31, Auturn Call St.-Villatford 93-31, Auturn Charlotte 18, Duquesno 93-31, Auturn Charlotte 19, Auturn Charlotte 19

Loydon 7, 45 Usakaro Lines 13-11
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Librity S, Marrial German, SC. 10-10
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un-Greensborn 14, The Citadel 6
Virginal 10, Marris 5, 8 Rehmond 6
Va. Wesjeam 167, Guilford 2-0
Va. Carolina 14, Appliachina 51, 6
W. Kentucky 18, Wolford 4
William 3, May 18, Magnetts
Advance 32, 18, W. Illinois 5, 10
Va. McChagan 14, Dakota 52, 5
Va. McChagan 16, Dakota 52

Arkansas 12. E. SOUTHWEST
Arkansas 12. E. Illais 1.
Arkansas Tech Illais 1.
Arkansas 12. E. Illais 1.
Arkansas 1

Creighton II. Yeas-Pan American 7
East Central 13-7, Angelo St. 8-8
E rexas Baptist 13-21, Austin 7-10
Illinois 4, Texas-Paning 10-10
Illinois 4, Texas-Arlington 2
Illinois 4, Texas-San Arlinois 5-2
Oklahoma 15, Northwestern St. 8
Oklahoma St. 20, WS. Alliwauker 3
Oklahoma St. 20, WS. Alliwauk Oral Roberts 5, Texas-San Antonio 4 Prairie View 9-16, Grambling St. 7-5 Rice 15, TCU 5 SE Oklahoma 5t. 2-6, E. New Mexico 1-2 Texas 8, Purdue 6 Texas-Dallas 15-2, LeTourneau 7-1 Texas State 16, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi

FAR WEST Arizona 7, Mississippi St. 3

Arizona 7, Mississippi St. 3 Brigham Young 22, New Mi Brown 7, Santa Clara 5 Hawaii 9, Florida St. 6 Long Beach St. 5, Houston

Loyola Marymount A, UC Santa Barbara 2 Portland 3, Pacific 7 - Cal. 10 Portland 3, Pacific 7 - Cal. 10 Days 11, 20 - Cal. 20 CD Days 12, Life 1 Valley 5, 5 UC Days 12, Life 1 Valley 5, 5 UC Days 12, Life 1 Valley 5, 5 UC Days 12, Life 1 Valley 5, 5 U Life

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Yellow Book USA Cla Winthrop 13, CS Northridge 1 Pepperdine 9, Oregon St. 4

Auto racing

Sam's Town 300

NASCAR Busch Series
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Las Ve 61,220. 3. (21) David Stremme, Dodge, 200, \$62,983. 4. (28) Joe Nemechek, Chevrolet, 200,

4. (28) JUB MEIRELIES, 0.5.1.05. 5. (10) Greg Biffle, Ford, 200, \$31,025. 6. (7) Reed Sorenson, Dodge, 200, \$35,275. 7. (1) Carl Edwards, Ford, 200, \$32,025. 8. (43) Randy Lalole, Chevrolet, 200, \$30,175.

\$30,175.

9. (5) Clint Bowyer, Chevrolet, 200, \$39,715.
10. (13) David Green, Ford, 200, \$34,255.
11. (3) Kyle Busch, Chevrolet, 200, \$31,105,12.
12. (18) Denny Hamlin, Chevrolet, 200, \$31,350. \$31,350. 13. (27) Justin Labonte, Chevrolet, 200,

13. (21) JUSUIT LADOTIC, S.1. 34,838, 14. (2) Elliott Sadler, Ford, 200, \$22,790. 15. (19) Tim Fedewa, Dodge, 199, \$28,810. 16. (20) Martin Truex Jr., Chevrolet, 199,

\$34,550.
17. (22) Jon Wood, Ford, 199, \$24,160.
18. (9) J.J. Yeley, Chevrolet, 199, \$27,730.
19. (33) Dave Blaney, Chevrolet, 199, \$21,915.
20. (8) Kasey Kahne, Dodge, 199, \$22,655.
21. (30) Scott Riggs, Chevrolet, 199,

\$21,695. 22. (23) Ashton Lewis Jr., Ford, 199, \$32,790. 23. (14) Kenny Wallace, Ford, 199, \$27,488. 24. (29) Jeremy Mayfield, Dodge, 199, \$21,340. (17) Sterling Marlin, Dodge, 199, (1/) Sterling Marin, Dodge, 199,
 (21,205.
 (35) Stanton Barrett, Chevrolet, 198,
 (33,195.

573,195.
271, (24) Aaron Fike, Dodge, 197, \$20,965.
28. (26) Johnny Sauter, Dodge, 197, \$23,355.
28. (26) Johnny Sauter, Dodge, 197, \$23,359.
30. (15) Paul Wolfe, Dodge, 197, \$20,830.
31. (37) Shawnar Robinson, Chevrolet, 196, \$22,670.

\$20,360, 33. (32) Tony Raines, Chevrolet, 196,

\$20,250.y naurts, Cnevrolet, 196, 34 (40) Derrike Cope, Ford, 191, \$24,670. 35 (39) Eric Norris, Chevrolet, 199, \$22,040. 36 (4) Shane Hmilet, Chevrolet, 146, transmission, \$22,00. 37 (11) Paul Menard, Chevrolet, 144, accident, \$22,480. 38 (16) Stacy Compton, Ford, 113, accident, \$22,480.

nent, \$24,455.
39. (42) Kim Crosby, Chevrolet, 76, accient, \$19,895.
40. (31) Michel Jourdain Jr., Ford, 53, accient, \$27,360. dent, \$27,360. 41. (41) Steve Grissom, Ford, 50, engine fail-ure, \$24,325. 42. (36) Kertus Davis, Chevrolet, 48, engine failure, \$21,765. 43. (6) Jason Keller, Ford, 41, engine failure, \$24,259.

Race Statistics
Winner's Average Speed: 122.158 mph

Time of Race: 2 hours, 27 minutes, 21 sec-

Time of Racez 2 Hours, 24 minuscandaria Margin of Victory 14.12 seconds. Caution Flags: 8 for 31 laps. Lead Changes: 15 among 7 drivers. Lap Leaders: C.Edwards 1-45; K.Harvick-Lap Leaders: C.Edwards 1-45; K.Harvick-Wards 66; K.Harvick-Wards 68; K.Harvick 87-98; M.Harvick 87-98; M.Harvick 87-98; M.Harvick 87-98; M.Harvick 87-98; M.Harvick 87-98; M.Harvick 179; J.Mermechek 171; 22-169; M.Harvick 179; J.Mermechek 171; S. Stremme 186-191; M.Harvick 179; J.Mermen 185-191; M.Harvick 196; Z. C.B. Stremme 186-191; M.Harvick 196; D.Stremme 186-191; M.Martin 192-200. Point Standings: 1, K.Harvick, 690; 2, C.Ed-wards, 610; 3, C.Bowyer, 571; 4, R.Sorenson, 564; 5, M.Truex Jr., 538; 6, A.Lewis Jr., 494; 7, D.Stremme, 452; 8, S.Hmiel, 431; 9, J.Labonte, 427; 10, D.Hamlin, 418.

Tennis

Pacific Life Open

At The Indian Wells Tennis Garden Indian Wells, Calif. Purse: Men, \$2,724,600 (Masters); Women, \$2,1 million (Tier I) Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Men
First Round
Mardy Fish, United States, def. Jan-Michael Gambill, United States, 6-2, 6-2.
Cyrll Saulnier, France, def. Victor Hanescu, Romania, 6-2, 6-2.
Jan Henrych, Czech Republic, def. Ramon Jan Hernych, Czech Republic, def. Ramon Delgado, Paraguay, 6-2, 6-4 Robby Ginepri, United States, def. Jose Acasuso, Argentina, 7-5, 7-6 (5).

United States, oet. Jose Acassiso, Argennus, United States, Oet. Jose Acassiso, Argennus, Gilles Muller, Lembourg, def. Asan-Rene Lisraud, Frances, 6-7, 2000.

Gilles Muller, Lembourg, def. Alex Calabrax, Spain, 6-3, 6-6, 6-1, def. Davide San-Javes, Spain, 6-3, 6-6, 6-1, def. Davide San-Javes, Neimber, Frisland, def. Luis Horna, Parko, Meimber, Frisland, def. Gael Mor-Tomp Reterool (21), Spain, def. Gael Mor-Tomp Reterool (21), Spain, def. Gael Mor-Tomp Reterool (21), Spain, def. Gael Mor-Tomp Reterool (22), Spain, def. Gael Mor-Tomp Reterool (22), Germany, def. Sarylis, Arminela, 6-6, 6-7 Hornas, Encyti, Nicolas, Refert (22), Germany, def. Sarylis, Arminela, 6-6, 6-7 Hornas, Encyt, def. (2-1).

Tim Henman (6), Britain, def. Amaud Clem-ent. France, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

6-4, 6-1.

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Pennetta (15), Italy, 7-6 (4), 4-6, 5-3. Jill Craybas, United States, def. Elena Lithovtseva (10), Russla, 6-1, 6-4. Kathalie Devit, (7), France, def. Emille Loit, France, 2-6, 6-1, United States, def. Daja Bedanova, Crebe Republic, 6-3, 6-7 (4), 6-2. Mary Pierce (20), France, def. Ludmila Cer-anova, Slovakia, 2-6, 6-1, 7-5. Daniela Hantuchova (13), Slovakia, def. Anne Kremer, Lucembourg, 4-6, 6-3, 7-5.

STRINGENT

ENFORCEMENT IS ANOTHER?

SO WE'RE ON THE SAME PAGE HERE

A CITENISCHIT

Golf

Oatar Masters

At Doha Golf Course
Doha, Qatar
Purse \$1.5 million
Vardage (7,31); Par 7-22
Ernie Els, Souther
Henrik Stenson, Sweden
Richard Green, Aurel
Jagmes Kim-Pierre Fulke, Sweden Richard Green, Australia James Kingston, S. Africa Robert Karlsson, Sweden Barry Lane, England Louis Oosthulzen, S. Africa Raphael Jacquelin, France Gregory Harvett, France Steve Webster, England

73-69-69-65-276
67-73-66-71-277
66-70-73-70-279
67-68-73-71-279
67-68-73-71-279
70-72-69-69-280
69-67-74-70-280
71-69-69-71-280
70-68-73-70-281
73-69-69-71-280
73-69-69-71-282
73-70-71-69-283

Honda Classic

Saturday At The Country Club at Mirasol, Sunrise Course Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. Purse: \$5.5 million Yardage: 7,384; Par: 72 Third Round

73-67-64-204 -12 66-66-72-204 -12 69-69-67-205 -11 Lee Janzen Joe Ogilvie Fred Couples 69-64-72-205 73-66-67-206 73-69-66-208 Robert Damro David Toms Kevin Stadler 70-65-73-208 71-71-67-209 71-70-68-209 Sean O'Hair Mark Hensby Charlie Wi 69-72-68-209 73-71-66-210 69-71-70-210 Vijay Singh Tim Herron Jim Furyk Brian Bateman Tim Clark Daniel Chonra 70-69-71-210 73-66-71-210 70-68-72-210 Brett Quigley Nick Watney John Cook Greg Owen Padraig Harrington Marco Dawson. Justin Leonard Billy Mayfair Ryan Palmer Jesper Parnevik Robert Allenby Brian Gay Brian Gay Hidemichi Tanaka Jay Williamson Justin Rose 73-69-70-212 73-68-71-212 69-72-71-212 Brad Faxon Scott McCarron 69-71-72-212 72-68-72-212 69-71-72-212 Aaron Baddele Andrew Magee

> 70-70-73-213 -3 69-69-75-213 -3 **SBC Classic**

71-70-72-213 75-65-73-213 70-70-73-213

At Valencia Country Club Santa Clarita, Calif. Purse: \$1.55 million Yardage: 6,905; Par: 72 Second Round

72-65-137 72-66-138 74-66-140 71-69-140 70-71-141 69-73-142 73-70-143 72-71-143 71-72-143 71-72-143 71-72-143 Isao Aoki Lanny Wadkins Don Pooley Des Smyth Bob Gilder Bob Gilder Wayne Levi Vance Heafner Tom McKnight Morris Hatalsky Craig Stadler Tom Purtzer Don Reese Allen Doyle Howard Twitty Dana Quigley Andy Bean Hajime Meshlai

Doug Barron Tommy Armour III Joe Durant

76-68-144 74-70-144 74-70-144 73-71-144 72-72-144 72-73-145 72-73-145 72-73-146 76-70 - 146
75-71 - 146
74-72 - 146
73-73 - 146
73-73 - 146
72-74 - 146
77-70 - 147
76-71 - 147
75-72 - 147
74-73 - 147
73-74 - 147

Deals

rry Pate raham Marsh cente Fernan

Saturday's transactions

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS—Placed G Nick
an Exel on the injured list. Signed G Mau-

Van Exel on the injured list. Signed G Mau-rice Baker to a 10-day contract. FOOTBALL National Football League DETROIT LIONS—Agreed to terms with QB Jeff Garcia on a one-year contract. MINNESOTA VIKINGS—Signed S Darren

Sharper to a four-year contract.

OAKLAND RAIDERS — Signed DE Derrick Bur-

TANK McNamara



WE'RE WORRIED ABOUT A DECLINE IN HOME-RUN PRODUCTION.

YOU'RE AFRAID OF YOUR MEMBERS

LOGING THEIR RIGHT TO PRIVACY



Peterson wins men's open slalom | Hanau boys win junior

Competition tight on final day of U.S. Forces Europe championships | hoop title

Stars and Stripes

GARMISCH, Germany Crashing through gates with bare forearms Sunday, Staff Sgt. Bradley Peterson turned in two of the day's fastest times to win the men's open division slalom title for active duty servicemembers in the 2005 Chrysler U.S. Forces Eu-

rope Ski and Snowboard Championships Barreling downhill in a T-shirt on a sunny slope at the Garmisch-Partenkirchen ski re-sort, the 25-year-old vehicle mechanic from Spangdahlem Air Base fought off a number of contenders to win with a two-run time of

Peterson said he chose to wear the tight. white T-shirt because it was the most aerody namic piece of clothing he'd brought to the mountain

"I haven't got a downhill suit, so that's what I use," he said.

Sunday's competition capped two days of championship races at Garmisch that started Saturday morning with snowboarding and skiing giant slalom events. A number of the week end's top racers, including Peterson, fared well in the slalom and giant slalom competi-tions, with several taking home double gold.

One of those racers was men's military mas ters-class skier Chief Master Sgt. John Roberto from Geilenkirchen, Germany, who said he wasn't planning to settle for a divisional title Sunday to match his GS performance — Roberto wanted the fastest time of the day.

"I'm going to let 'em rock and roll, [and] see what happens," Roberto said just before his second slalom run Sunday

Other skiers had similar plans, and winners in several categories turned in times close to Roberto's 50.13, including men's professional winner Gardner Wilgoose, boy's junior champion Sebby Smithback and men's military senior winner Jeremie Oates.

On the women's side, Garmisch local Christa Ellis came away with two gold medals, edg-ing out Vincenza, Italy's Susan Keith in both skiing events in the civilian seniors' division In the women's open division, Kristina Davis from Oberamergau, Germany ruled the week-end, winning both the slalom and giant slalom, along with Julia Goodwin from Garmisch, who did the same in the girls' junior category.



Ten-year-old Chelsea Smithback digs a furrow in to the slalom course Sunday, Smithback who had been in contention in the youth girls division before the spill, earned a bronze medal in Saturday's giant slalom.



Ben Reed ducks past a gate on the slalom course Sunday in the 2005 Chrysler U.S. Forces Europe Ski and Snowboard Championships at the Garmisch-Partenkirchen resort.

For the active-duty women on the slopes Saturday and Sunday, masters-class skier Debbie Dickson was the fastest two-planker in both slalom and giant slalom.

Garmisch skiers dominated most of the younger age divisions. Junior boys Alex Denikiewicz and Sebby Smithback traded the top two podium spots in the skiing events, and junior skiers Ania Denikiewicz and Joyce Ellis did the same for the girls. All four are from

Ten-year-old Ellis said Sunday the short, tight turns of the slalom suited her better than

the wide-open GS, though she had fared well in both.

"I don't like going so fast," she said. "I rather like short turns. By the end of competition, Garmisch had

seen high winds, low temperatures and an overnight snowstorm before the weather broke Sunday. But organizers said that things

had gone about as smooth as they could.
"It went great," race organizer David Oakland said. "We lucked out on the weather be-

cause the storms came in between the races." E-mail Ben Murray at:

BY RUSTY BRYAN Stars and Stripes

MANNHEIM, Germany - Center Robert Young scored seven of his team's final 12 points Sunday as the Hanau Hornets rallied from a six-point deficit in the final 2 minutes, 33 seconds to claim the 2005 Army-Europe youth services junior basketball championship with a 35-31 victory over the Vogelweh Warriors.

"They were a tough team," Young said after his team com pleted its unbeaten run through the double-elimination event for players aged 13-15 by erasing a deficit that reached as many as 12 points

Young scored on a drive into the lane with 1:15 to play to tie the game at 31 and get Hanau even for the first time since early in the first quarter. His free throw 13 seconds later, the last of his 15 points, put Hanau up for good

The free throw came after Vogelweh's Julian Portillo, who played every minute of every pre-vious game in the tournament, fouled out with 1:02 to play after scoring 20 points, stealing the ball 10 times and collecting 11 re-

bounds.
"That was our goal, getting him out of the game," said Young, a 15-year-old Hanau High School sophomore. "He's their main

While Portillo's foul trouble while Portillo's foul trouble didn't cost him any playing time except for the last 62 seconds of the game, James Wright's foul trouble took him out of the game. Wright was forced to sit for nearly 10 minutes of the 24-minute game after picking up his third foul with 3:59 to play before halftime. Wright, who scored five points, returned in the final minutes but fouled out with 10 seconds left in the game.

While Wright was sitting, Hanau went to work mounting a 7-1 third-quarter run behind a three-pointer by Antonio Ford and two baskets by Zayne Riggins, who scored 11 points.

The Hornets then turned the game over to Young for the 14-7 fourth-quarter spurt.

'We were never worried," said Ford, an eighth-grader at Hanau Middle School, about his team's playing from behind for more than 19 minutes on Sunday, "We knew we just had to keep our heads in the game.

Hanau 35, Vogelweh 31

an z. -game MVPs-Zayne Riggins, Hanau; Portillo, Vogelweh



Wells makes first start for Red Sox

David Wells made his Boston debut and began looking ahead to Opening Day.

Andy Pettitte is still waiting to make his first start of spring train-

Wells worked two solid innings during the Tampa Bay Devil Rays' 6-4 victory over the Red Sox on Saturday, then said he'd be happy to start opening night April 3 against his former team, the New York Yankees, if Curt Schilling isn't vet recovered from

offseason ankle surgery "I don't mind taking the ball in any game no matter what, especially a big game, and the first game of the season is going to be a big game," said Wells, who now wears No. 3. the same number one of his favorite players, Babe Ruth, wore with the Yankees

Pettitte was scratched from his scheduled start for Houston because of a sprained right ankle after falling down stairs at his apartment Friday.

"He's feeling pretty good today and it is not as swollen as we thought it would be." Houston manager Phil Garner said

Pettitte tested the ankle in a brief session at the Astros' camp Saturday morning. The 32-year-old left-hander is trying to rebound from an inju-ry-plagued 2004 season that included three trips to the disabled list because of elbow problems.

"He probably could have gone a little longer, but we didn't want to push it." Garner said. "We'll give him another bullnen session on Tuesday and maybe pitch him in a game later in the week

After going through rehab for the past eight months, Pettitte pitched three innings in a simulated game Tuesday.

Tim Redding replaced Pettitte and struck out six in four scoreless innings to help Houston defeat the Cleveland Indians 7-3 in Winter Haven, Fla.

Fort Myers, Fla., the

Spring training

41-year-old Wells allowed four hits, one earned run and a wild pitch. He had no walks or strikeouts while throwing 28 pitches, 20 for strikes

"My only job here is to go in here and win with the Boston Red Sox and try to give them quality innings and try to bring another championship to Boston," Wells

B.J. Upton hit a solo homer for Tampa Bay. David Ortiz hit a three-run homer and Trot Nixon added a solo shot for Boston.

In other games: Yankees 5, Phillies (ss) 2: At

Tampa, Fla., Hideki Matsui hit a grand slam and Jaret Wright allowed three hits in three scoreless innings.

Twins 4, Blue Jays 1: At Dune din, Fla., Carlos Silva threw four strong innings for Minnesota

Nationals 6. Marlins 3: At Jupiter. Fla., Josh Beckett turned in the finest performance by any Florida starter this spring, allow ing four hits and one unearned run in six innings.

Tigers 4, Braves (ss) 3: At Kiss immee, Fla., Tim Hudson became the first Atlanta starter to give up a run this spring, allowing a homer to Carlos Pena

Dodgers (ss) 0, Orioles 0 (10): At Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Sidney Ponson pitched four strong innings in his first spring start after his debut was delayed by a court case back home in Aruba.

Mets 5, Dodgers 5 (11): At Vero Beach, Fla., Kazuhisa Ishii made a strong case to rejoin Los Angeles' rotation, allowing one hit over four innings in his first start of the spring.

Phillies (ss) 10, Braves (ss) 9 (10): At Clearwater, Fla., Jim Thome hit a pair of two-run shots and Placido Polanco also hom-



Boston Red Sox pitcher David Wells delivers to Tampa Bay Devil Rays' Delmon Young during the first inning in Fort Myers, Fla., on Saturday.

ered for Philadelphia. Andy Marte homered twice for Atlanta, and Rafael Furcal also homered.

Pirates (ss) 13, Reds (ss) 2: At Sarasota, Fla., Ty Wigginton went 4-for-5 with two RBIs and Ben Grieve drove in four runs for

Pirates (ss) 15, Reds (ss) 12: At Bradenton, Fla., All-Star shortstop Jack Wilson went 0-for-2 in his first spring start for the Pirates but turned in several impressive defensive plays.

Mets (ss) 3, Cardinals 2: At Port St. Lucie, Fla., Matt Morris pitched two strong innings in his spring debut following offseason shoulder surgery, but Tom Glavine tossed four innings of no-hit ball for New York. Carlos Beltran hit his second homer for the Mets, and David Wright had a two-run double.

Giants (ss) 2, Royals 1: At Surprise, Ariz., Kansas City closer Jeremy Affeldt left strained left groin.

"It's not that serious," Royals manager Tony Pena said. "We don't want to take any chances. I did not hesitate to take him out." Noah Lowry pitched 32/3 score-

less innings, allowing three hits and striking out five for the win.

Athletics 7, White Sox 6: At Phoenix. Eric Chavez hit a three-run shot for his first home run of the spring for Oakland. Carl Everett hit his third homer and a two-run single for the White Sox

Diamondbacks 4, Padres 3: At Tucson, Ariz., Alex Cintron went 4-for-4 with two doubles and Arizona got 10 hits off San Diego starter Adam Eaton

Angels (ss) 8, Cubs 3: At Mesa, Ariz., Nomar Garciaparra homered, doubled and 3-for-3 for the Cubs Garret Anderson hit a two-run homer off Greg Maddux for the Angels. Maddux gave up six hits and two runs in four innings.

Giants (ss) 7, Angels (ss) 4: At Scottsdale, Ariz., Michael Tucker doubled twice and drove in two for the Giants, and Lou Merloni hit his second triple and drove in o runs for the Angels

Mariners 8, Rangers 3: At Peoria, Ariz., Raul Ibanez went 3-for-4 with an RBI and left-hander Bobby Madritsch pitched three hitless innings for Seattle.

Brewers 17. Rockies 9: At Tucson, Ariz., Wes Helms hit two home runs and the Milwaukee Brewers pounded out 20 hits against Colorado.

Report: Jeremy Giambi admits to steroid use

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - Former major leaguer Jeremy Giambi, who played one injury-plagued season for the Boston Red Sox, admitted he used steroids. The Kansas City Star reported Sunday.

'It's something I did." Giambi told the newspaper. "I apologize. I made a mistake. I moved on. I kind of want it in the past."

Giambi, the younger brother of Yankees star Jason Giambi. signed a minor league contract with the Chicago White Sox on Jeremy Giambi broke into the

big leagues in 1998 with Kansas City, then played with his brother in Oakland from 2000-01

Jason Giambi won the AL MVF Award in 2000, and his younger brother had his best season the next year, hitting .283 with 12 homers and 57 RBIs in 371 at-hate

The younger Giambi has also played for Philadelphia.

His last stint in the majors was in 2003, when he batted 197 in 127 at-bats with the Red Sox. He missed most of last season with a herniated disc. Signed by the Dodgers, he didn't play in a big league game.

While he did not specifically say his brother used steroids. Jeremy Giambi noted a news conference his brother had last month in New York during which he apologized profusely, but did not say why he was apologizing.

'If you don't know what he's apologizing for," Jeremy Giambi said, "you must've been in a coma for two years."

Jeremy Giambi declined to be specific about his steroid use. He told the newspaper he wants to come clean about steroids and hopes others will do the same.

They're not good for you," the younger Giambi said. "I think we need to reach out and let teenagers know they're not good for your body and not good for your

It was the elder Giambi who introduced his brother to steroids, according to a transcript of the BALCO grand jury proceedings, the San Francisco Chronicle reported. When he testified before the grand jury, Jeremy Giambi said he used steroids in cream and liquid form and injected human growth hormone and testosterone

The Yankees on Saturday declined a request by the Star to interview Jason Giambi.

In January, baseball adopted a harsher steroid-testing policy.

"Baseball has taken a step for-ward," the younger Giambi said.

"People need to realize that and let it work. I wouldn't want to be the first one to get caught. It might be worse than a murder

Selig unhappy about congressional hearing

he's not sure

what will be

asked of the

players who

were subpoe-

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS

The Associated Press

PEORIA, Ariz. - Commission er Bud Selig is unhappy about the upcoming congressional hearing on steroids because he thinks hasehall has already adopted a strong testing program.

The House Government Reform Committee has subpoenaed seven current or former players and four baseball executives to testify at a hearing March 17. The commissioner's office has said it will fight the subpoenas.

"I am very protective of the players, and there has to be a sense of fairness," Selig said Saturday, "If I sound a bit elevated. it is for that reason. We made agreements and we are doing the things we promised to do."



naed. When asked what he felt the committee's motivation was, he de-"I'll

you all make that judgment, Selig told reporters during the Seattle Mariners' spring training game against the Texas Rangers.

Under pressure from Congress, baseball and its players agreed in January to a tougher steroid-testing program that added penalties for first-time offenders (10-day

and suspensions) random. year-round tests. "It's an evolving policy. When

we went to testing, it was called weak and toothless." Selig said. "But we started at 7 percent [testing positive], now we're down to 1-2 percent. I believe while this policy isn't exactly what I want, it's the best that could be done in collective bargaining.

"I'm comfortable and very confident in telling you that we will really reduce the usage."

The previous policy called only for treatment after a first positive test. No player was suspended for steroid use in 2004, the first season of testing with penalties.

The players subpoenaed for next week's hearing are former stars Mark McGwire and Jose Canseco and current players

Jason Giambi, Sammy Sosa, Curt Schilling, Frank Thomas and Rafael Palmeiro. Selig said he wasn't sure about

any attempts by baseball officials to negotiate a deal with Congress that would excuse the players from testifying. The commissioner, who ad-

dressed a Senate nanel about steroids last year, was not subpoenaed, but said he was willing to attend the hearings.

"I'll do whatever is in the best interest of the sport, and if I believe that's it, you bet I'll be there," he said.

Players' association

Donald Fehr, Major League Baseball executive vice presidents Rob Manfred and Sandy Alderson, and San Diego Padres gener-al manager Kevin Towers have been called to appear.

Nuggets, Lakers rally to win

Carmelo Anthony came out of his shooting slump when it counted

Kobe Bryant took over the fourth quarter for the Los Ange. les Lakers, as well.

Anthony's Denver Nuggets and Bryant's Lakers both won Saturday night to remain tied for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

In San Antonio, Anthony made a 14-foot jumper and added two free throws in the final 2 minutes as Denver rallied for its eighth straight victory, 90-87 over the Spurs

The basket was only the fourth in 17 attempts in the game for Anthony. Of his 13 misses, 11 came from 5 feet or closer

"I was missing shots around the rim, so I tried to find open looks, get free in the open court, draw some fouls and get some rebounds," Anthony said.

He finished with 21 points, 12 coming on free throws, and four of his six rebounds were on the of-

The Nuggets trailed 79-70 with about 9 minutes left after Devin Brown made two three-nointers and Beno Udrih added another for the Spurs, who played without Tim Duncan and Manu Ginobili for a second straight game.

Denver chipped away at the

no matter what you drive.



deficit while San Antonio's offense bogged down, and the Nuggets finished by scoring the game's final 10 points.

The Spurs' last points of the game came on a corner jumper by Tony Parker with 3:29 left that made the score 87-80.

"I told my guys that they couldn't let them (the Spurs) score any more baskets if they hoped to get out of this one with a " Denver coach George Karl said. "Yes, there was no Duncan out there, but I don't care what you say, this is a big win.

Duncan has a sprained right ankle, and Ginobili a slight groin strain

The win broke Denver's eight-game losing streak in San Antonio, and for the Spurs, the loss was only their third in 31 home games this season.

In Charlotte, Bryant capped his 21-point fourth quarter with a long jumper with 0.9 seconds left to lift Los Angeles over the Bobcats and give the Lakers consecutive road victories for ther first time this season

Bryant finished with 32 points and nine assists for the Lakers, who trailed much of the way against the expansion Bobcats.

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4-for-12 shooting through three periods. Bryant hit six straig shots — including three three-pointers — and the defic was down to 110-108 after h iumper over Keith Bogans wit 2:45 left in the game.

Then, after closing to 116-115 on a tip-in by Jumaine Jones with 31 seconds left, the Lakers got the ball back with the chance to win it. Bryant did the rest, taking the ball near midcourt and dribbling toward the top of the key. He pump-faked, sending Bogans into the air, and rose above the Bobcats' guard to launch the shot.

The hall swished through the net, stunning the crowd.

Heat 90, Nets 65: Eddie Jones scored 14 of his 18 points in a decisive third quarter to help Miami win its eighth straight game and 12th in a row at home.

Shaquille O'Neal had 15 points and 11 rebounds for the Heat, who allowed their lowest point total of the season Damon Jones added 15 points and Dwvane Wade 13.

Vince Carter scored 20 for the Nets, who managed just 26 points in the second half and lost for the fourth time in five games.

Warriors 105, Hawks 92: Mike Dunleavy and Jason Richardson each scored 22 points and visiting Golden State set a team record with 18 three-nointers

Dunleavy was 6-for-7 from three-point range and Baron Davis went 6-for-10 and scored 20 points. The Warriors, 18-for-33 overall on threes, became the fifth team to fall one shy of the NBA record set by Atlant against Dallas on Dec. 17, 1996. Atlanta

Hornets 111, Bucks 107: J.R Smith made three free throws in the final 4 seconds and finished with 16 points to lead New Orleans at home.

Dan Dickau led the Hornets with 17 points, P.J. Brown had 16 points and 13 rebounds, and Lee Nailon also had 16 points

Trail Blazers 80, Grizzlies 66: At Portland, Ore., Shareef Abdur-Rahim had 25 points and 10 rebounds to help give Kevin Pritchard his first victory as Portland's interim coach.

Pritchard, the team's director of player personnel, lost his first four games after taking over the Blazers following Maurice Cheeks' firing.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

on ee ht ee	x-Miami x-Detroit x-Boston Washington Chicago Cleveland Indiana Orlando	48 37 33 33 32 32 31 31	16 23 29 26 27 27 27 30 30	Pct .750 .617 .532 .559 .542 .542 .508 .508	9 14 12% 13% 13% 15%
is th	Philadelphia New York New Jersey Toronto Milwaukee Charlotte Atlanta	30 26 27 26 25 12	32 34 36 36 36 48 51	.484 .433 .429 .419 .410 .200	17 20 20% 21 21% 34 36

Western Conference

x-Pnoenix x-San Antonio x-Seattle Dallas Sacramento Houston Memphis Denver	47 47 41 40 39 36 35 32	15 19 21 24 25 27 29	.758 .758 .683 .656 .619 .590 .565	5 6½ 8½ 10½ 12 14½
L.A. Lakers	32	29	.525	14½
Minnesota	32	31	.508	15½
L.A. Clippers	27	35	.435	20
Portland	23	37	.383	23
Utah	20	41	.328	26½
Golden State	20	43	.317	27½
New Orleans	14	47	.230	32½

W L Pct GB

Golden State 20 43 New Orleans 14 47 X-division leader 5 Miami 90, New Jersey 65 Golden State 105, Attanta 92 L.A. Lakers 117, Charlotte 116 New Orleans 111, Milwaukee 1 Denver 90, San Memphis 66 Portland 80, Memphis 66 Dallas at Minnesota Moiston Minnesota Moiston Minnesota

Dallas at Minnesota Houston at Sacramento Chicago at L.A. Cilppers Utah at Detroit New Jersey at Orlando Washington at Boston Philadelphia at Toronto Seattle at New York Indiana at Cleveland Phoenix at Devoka Mondon at Cleveland Phoenix at Devoka Words at Mondon at Cleveland Detroit at Atlanta Milwaukea at Miami

L.A. Lakers at Washington Detroit at Atlanta Milwaukee at Miami Portland at Memphis New Orleans at San Antonio Houston at Golden State Tuesday's games

Tuesd Utah at Cleveland L.A. Lakers at Phila Miami at New York Seattle at Chicago Minnesota at Dalla Orlando at Sacram

Sunday

Heat 90, Nets 65

Heat 90, Nets 65

WY MESSY - Carte 514(0.17), Collins
16 9-02, Krstis 64 8-412, (doil 3-10.12-17,
May 11-15-12, Ma

Warriors 105, Hawks 92

Warriors 1.05, Hawks 92.

GOLDEN STATE — Dunleavy 7:15 5-2 22,
Murphy 4-11 0-09, Foyle 3-0-0.6, Fisher 6-12,
0-15, Richardson 9-16-2 3-2, Dusky 7-17 6-3
0-15, Richardson 9-16-2 3-2, Dusky 7-17 6-3
0-15, Richardson 9-16-2 3-2, Dusky 7-17 6-3
Cabarriaga 0-1 0-0, Tskitishvili 0-2 0-0, To18-18-09-47-12, Dishib 2-4 2-2, 6-1, Brainington
ATLAWA — 15mith 2-4 2-2, 6-1, Brainington
Childres 7-18-4 18, Drohnjak 4-11 0-9, 8,
Gugliotta 5-8-2-2 12, Ivey 7-5-0-0, 4, Dsmith
13-45, Djana 2-40-0, Coller 2-30-0, 4, Essen-

Childres J. 15: 84 1 (8, Dobuhila 4-11 6-8) (10-10) (1

Lakers 117, Bobcats 116

LA. LAKERS — Butler 6-8 2-4 14, Odom 3-7 2-29, Mihm 5-7 5-7 15, Atkins 9-18 2-2 26, Bry-ant 12-24 4-5 32, Grant 1-4 0-0 2, B.Cook 0-1 0-0 0, Brown 2-3 0-0 4, Jones 5-7 2-2 15, Wal-ton 0-0 0-0 0, Medvedenko 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 43-79 17-22 117.

3-79 17-22 117. **CHARLOTTE** — Smith 2-6 0-0 4, Okafor 13-22 -6 30, Brezze 4-9 0-0 8, Hart 3-8 1-2 7, Bogans -8 1-1 13, Robinson 0-0 0-0 0, Knight 6-12 -10 21, Ely 6-7 0-0 12, Kapono 2-5 4-4 9, Allen -1 0-0 0, Carroll 4-5 4-5 12. Totals 45-83 23-28

int Goals-L.A. Lakers 14-28 (At Three-Point Goals—LA. Lakers 14-28 (At-kins 6-14, Bryant 4-5. Jones 3-5, Odom 1-, B.Cook 0-1, Brown 0-1), Charlotte 3-9 (Bogans 2-3, Appon 1-2, Hard 1-1, Knight 0-1, Smith 0-1, Carroll 0-1), Fouled Out—None Re-bounds—LA. Lakers 42 (Odom 11), Charlotte 42 (Okador 11), Assists—LA. Lakers 29 (Bry-ant 9), Charlotte 31 (Knight 17), Total Fouls—LA. Lakers 20, Charlotte 21, Techni-cials—Bryant, Knight A. e-23, 319, (23, 319).

Hornets 111, Bucks 107

MILWAUKEE — Mason 5-11 1-2 11, Jo.Smith 4-7 0-0 8, Gadzuric 3-6 4-4 10, M.Williams 6-11 5-6 19, Redd 9-24 9-10 29, Goldwire 5-7 0-0 14, Pachulia 0-0 0-0 0, Kukoc 3-7 2-3 8, Fizer 3-3 0-0 6, Strickland 0-1 2-2 2, Totals 38-77 23-27

NEW ORLEANS — Nallon 8-9 0-0 16, Vroman 5-7 0-0 10, Brown 6-9 4-4 16, Dickau 8-16 0-1 17, J.Smith 5-12 5-8 17, Nachbar 4-9 0-0 11, Claxton 1-6 1-23, Andersen 2-10 5-10 9, Jacob-sen 3-8 5-6 12. Totals 42-6 20-31 111. Milwaukee 22 30 21 34-107 New Orleans 27 25 33 26-111

sen 3-8-5-12. Totals 42-85 70-31 111. Milwaukee 2 29 20 21 34—107 Milwaukee 2 20 20 21 34—107 Milwaukee 2 20 20 21 34—107 Milwaukee 3-20 (20 21 34)—107 Milwaukee 20, New Orleans 30 (Technicals—Milwaukee 20, New Orleans 30, Technicals—Milwaukee 20, New Orleans 31, New Orleans

Nuggets 90, Spurs 87

DEWIRE A-HOND 4-17 12-13 21, Martin 9-15 5-7, 22, Camby 4-9 0-9 8, Willer 5-12 6-8 0-9 15 9-17 22, Camby 4-9 0-9 8, Willer 5-12 6-8 0-9 15 9-17 20-17

16-21 87 28 21 22 22-29 28 38 Antonio San Antonio Goals - Deriver 4-30 (Anthony 1 Three-Point Goals - Deriver 4-30 (Anthony 1 Three-Point Goals - Deriver 4-30 (Anthony 2 San Antonio 5-12 (Bowen 2-2, Grown 2-3, Udrin 1-1, Horry 0-1, Barry 0-2, Parker 0-3, San Antonio 5-10 (Mohammed 9). Assists - Deriver 14 (Boykins 8), San Antonio Canhoy 71, San Antonio Canhoy 71, San Antonio Canboy 71, San Antonio Cando (21 Technicas-Miller, San Antonio Cefensive Three Second, San Antonio Cefensive Three Second, San Antonio Cefensive Three Second, San Antonio Cando (21 Technicas-Miller, San Antonio Cefensive Three Second, San Antonio Cando (21 Technicas-Miller) (18,550).

Trail Blazers 80, Grizzlies 66

MEMPHIS — Battler 5-12 1-3 11, Cardinal 4-10-0-11, Wright 9-14 3-5 21, Miller 3-11 0-0 8, Williams 0-2 0-0 0, Posey 1-9 0-0 2, Watson 3-8 1-1 7, Tsakalidis 0-3 0-2 0, Emmett 0-0 0-0 0, Burks 1-3 2-2 4, Humphrey 1-2 0-0 2, Totals 27-74 7-13 6-7

27:74 7-13 66.

PORTLAND — Miles 4-13 0-0 8.

Abdur-Rahim 9-19 6-8 25, Przybilia 4-6 4-6 12.

Outlaw 0-0 0-0 0, Telfair 3-8 1-7, Frahm 6-12

0-0 14, Ratilif 4-7 4-4 12, Khryapa 0-2 0-0 0,

Baker 0-1 0-0 0, Seung-Jin 1-2 0-0 2.

Totals 31-70 15-20 80.

Through March 12 Scoring								
-	G	FG.	FT	PTS	AVG			
Iverson, Phil.	56	561		1689	30.2			
Bryant, LAL	47	415		1345	28.6			
Nowitzki, Dall,	58	511		1562	26.9			
Stoudemire, Phoe.	62	594		1634	26.4			
McGrady, Hou.	58	533		1504	25.9			
James, Clev.	57	542	312	1452	25.5			
Arenas, Wash.	57	466		1450	25.4			
Allen, Sea.	58	471		1390	24.0			
Wade, Mia.	60	484		1421	23.7			
Redd, Mil.	58	491		1327	22.9			
Richardson, G.S.	54	477		1218	22.6			
O'Neal, Mia.	60	524		1349	22.5			
Carter, N.J.	58	474		1297	22.4			
Garnett, Minn.	63	537		1407	22.3			
Pierce, Bos.	62	430		1357	21.9			
Francis, Orl.	61	444		1319	21.6			
Maggette, LAC	52	328		1115	21.4			
Duncan, S.A.	58	474		1230	21.2			
Marbury, N.Y.	60	435		1262	21.0			

O'Neal Mia Stoudemire, Pho Yao, Hou. Haslem, Mia. McDyess, Det. Blount, Bos. Patterson, Port. 289 231 259 238

B. Wallace, Det. Duncan, S.A. Marion, Phoe. Okafor, Char. Odom, LAL O'Neal, Mia. K. Thomas, N.Y. Nowitzki, Dall. Howard, Orl.

.593 .567 .551 .541 .537 .532 .531

Nash, Phoe. Knight, Char. Marbury, N.Y. Kidd, N.J. Iverson, Phil. James, Clev. Wade, Mia. Alston, Tor. Francis, Orl. 60 47 56 57 60 61



WESTERN

Edwards' flat allows Martin to add win 47

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS - Mark Martin moved into the lead when seemingly unstoppable Carl Edwards was sidelined by a flat tire, extending his record for Busch Series victories to 47 Saturday at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

Martin picked up his second Busch win this season, following his victory at California two

Edwards, making just his sixth Busch start, shot away from the field after taking his first series pole and dominated for 125 of the 200 laps in the Sam's Town 300 until the right rear tire went down on lap 186, sending him spinning into the infield

"I had a little luck today. Carl Edwards was in a position to win that one," Martin said of his Roush Racing teammate. "I was just lucky to get into the front.

"He was just checked out. There wasn't much we could do

The Associated Press

DOHA, Qatar - Ernie Els won

his second straight tournament in

the Middle East, rallying to take

the Qatar Masters on Sunday by

one shot after carding a 7-under

can, who finished with a 12-under

276, fired seven birdies to come

back from a five-stroke deficit

and edge Henrik Stenson of Swe-

den at the Doha Golf Course. Sten-

Richard Green of Australia and

Els also won the Dubai Desert

Ogilvy makes up eight strokes,

Pierre Fulke of Sweden tied for

son shot a 71 on Sunday.

third at 9 under.

Classic last week

The third-ranked South Afri-

65 in the final round

Els comes out on top

again in Middle East

about it. That one just slipped through his fingers

Martin seized on Edwards' misfortune when his teammate's right rear tire failed.

"I knew Carl had a problem down the back stretch and I knew at that point the race could be on between [Stremme and me]

As Martin swept to a 1.412-second victory - about 14 car lengths - Kevin Harvick and David Stremme battled for second. Harvick passed on the last turn of the final lap and edged Stremme by the length of his

Joe Nemechek finished fourth and Greg Biffle fifth. Reed Sorenson was sixth, and Edwards worked his way up to seventh, despite the tire problems.

Stremme was handicapped in the late going by a cranky gearshift lever he had to hold while he was trying to steer the car around the 1.5-mile Las Vegas oval.

pretty hard driving one-handed around this slippery track," he said.



Bode Miller, left, and Anja Paerson show their World Cup overall trophies after the final event on Sunday

Paerson hangs on to overall title

Swede edges Kostelic by three points

BY ERICA BULMAN The Associated Press

LENZERHEIDE, Switzerland - Sweden's Anja Paerson held off Croatia's Janica Kostelic to win the overall World Cup title Sunday in a competition that came down to the final skier in the final race of the season

"Janica and I were both standing there in the finish, and we weren't sure who was going to win," Paerson said. "That's the

way it ski racing should be.' Finland's Tanja Poutiainen, who already had clinched the slalom championship, captured the giant slalom title

Spain's Marie Jose Rienda Contreras the last skier of the day won the final giant slalom in 2 minutes, 20.18 seconds. Poutiainen was second in 2:20.48, and Nicole Hosp of Austria was third

in 2:20.69

Paerson won the championship by three points after entering the race with a 35-point lead over Kostelic in the overall standings. She would have automatically

won the title by finishing ahead of

score points.

the Croat. But Kostelic was eighth and Paerson 17th. Kostelic and Paerson hugged

after the race, and then Kostelic kissed her Swedish rival on the cheek before pushing her into the center of the finish area

"Maybe we're not best friends. but we appreciate each other as skiers," Paerson said. "I admire her. We're both great skiers.

The Swede seemed on track to retain her overall title in the opening leg, finishing ahead of Kostelic but things got tricky for Paerson in the second run.

Kostelic managed strong performance in the second leg, crossing fourth. Paerson, running next, was uncharacteristically slow in her favorite discipline. finishing just within the points in 13th place with four racers to go.

Kostelic could have secured the title by finishing seventh or higher as long Paerson fell out of the top 15. At the World Cup finals, only the top 15 finishers

With one skier left. Kostelic was seventh and Paerson was already out of the top 15. But Rienda Contreras delivered a sizzling final run - overcoming a mistake where she went wide - to win the race and give Paerson the overall title by bumping Kostelic to

eighth. Paerson finished the season with 1,359 overall points, fol-lowed by Kostelic with 1,356.

In the men's final event on Sunday, Austria's Mario Matt won the slalom - his first victory in more than four years - and newly crowned overall champion Bode Miller completed a slalom for just the second time this sea-

Matt, the 2001 world champion, maintained his lead from the first run to complete the sun-drenched course in a combined time of 1 minute, 22.81 seconds. He was fastest in the opening run and third in the second.

Alois Vogl of Germany was sec-ond in 1:23.54 and Rainer Schoenfelder of Austria was third in 1:23.55.

Miller finished in sixth place. He was 13th after a mistake in the opening leg but delivered a blistering second run.

moves into tie for lead PALM BEACH GARDENS,

Fla. - Australia's Geoff Ogilvy overcame an eight-shot deficit at the start of play Saturday, shooting an 8-under-par 64 to tie Brett Wetterich for the lead after three rounds in the Honda Classic Wetterich, bidding for his first

PGA Tour victory, began the day alone in the lead but scrambled to a 72 and joined Ogilvy at 12-under 204

Two-time U.S. Open champion Lee Janzen, seeking his first tour title since 1998, bogeyed No. 18 to fall out of a three-way tie for the lead. A round of 72 left him one stroke off the pace and tied with Pat Perez (67) at 11 under.

With the greens firmer than in the first two rounds and winds still strong, bogeys became more frequent on the long Country Club at Mirasol course

Ogilvy, who won his first title in 108 PGA Tour starts two weeks ago at Tucson, struggled to a 73 in the opening round but began to surge Saturday when he birdied



four of the first six holes. He also birdied Nos. 17 and 18. "I just kept hitting nice shots

and getting good putts," he said. "Maybe six months ago, sneaking right up the leader board deep on Saturday, I might have gotten a bit more nervous than I did. I was nothing but comfortable."

No. 2-ranked Vijay Singh, the lone player entered among the world's top six, shot 70 and was 6 under. Todd Hamilton, the champion last year, shot 72 and was 4 Wetterich and Janzen, playing

in the final twosome, swapped the lead three times early. They struggled on the back nine, where most of the holes went into the wind. and slipped back to Ogilvy on the leader board

Fergus leads SBC Classic after 7-under 65 SANTA CLARITA, Calif.

Keith Fergus shot a 7-under 65 to take a one-stroke lead over Mark McNulty after two rounds of the Champions Tour's SBC Classic. The 51-year-old Fergus a

former golf coach at Houston and three-time winner in 14 years on the PGA Tour, had six birdies and a bogey on the Valencia Country Club course for a 7-under 137

McNulty shot a 66 to move to 138, two strokes ahead of Gary McCord (66) and D.A. Weibring (69). Mike Reid was in fifth place at 141 after a second-round 71, and 62-year-old Isao Aoki, the first-round leader, followed an opening 69 with a 73, dropping to

Vikings sign ex-Packer Sharper

MINNEAPOLIS - The Minnesota Vikings signed veteran safety Darren Sharper to a four-year contract on Saturday. Sharper, cut by the Green Bay Packers in a

Sports briefs

cost-cutting move last week, started at free safety the past six seasons and ranks fifth in team history with 36 interceptions. He led the team with four intercentions last year and scored three defensive touchdowns

"Darren is very excited to be going to Minnesota," gent Joel Segal told The Associated Press.

The Packers tried to get Sharper to restructure his deal, but he balked at a pay cut, hoping he could make more on the open market than the approximately \$2 million Green Bay was offering for 2005.

The Vikings were only too happy to have him fall

into their laps.

"He's a great playmaker and has been a nemesis of ours for years," Vikings vice president of football operations Rob Brzezinski said. "He's an outstanding leader and will be a tremendous addition to our

BC player injured during raid on home BOSTON - Boston College guard Jermaine Wat-

son jumped from a second-story window to escape gun-toting masked men who burst into his off-campus apartment, police said.

Watson cut his ear and left hand early Saturday.

He sat out practice that day but coach Al Skinner expected the senior to return to the court Sunday in preparation for the NCAA tournament. 'He said he's OK and he wants to play," Skinner

There were no arrests in connection with the raid,

which appeared to stem from a dispute during a party at Watson's apartment.

'Happy birthday, coach'

Oklahoma St. gives Sutton a victory over Kansas

BY DOUG TUCKER

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The first day of Eddie Sutton's 70th year will produce a coaching matchup for the ages.

Joey Graham scored 25 points, four on free throws in the final 41.4 seconds, as Oklahoma State marked Sutton's 69th birthday with a 78-75 victory over No. 9 Kansas in the Big 12 tournament semifinals.

In the Big 12 title game on Sunday, it'll be Sutton, with 778 victories, against Texas Tech's Bob Knight, who's won 852 games in a Hall of Fame career.

"I have had a lot of disappointments on my birthday," said Sutton, who was serenaded by fans' shouts of, "Happy birthday!" "Today is not one of those days. I had a good 69th."

The No. 10 Cowboys shot 57 percent in the second half to the 64 percent of Kansas, which got 30 points from Wayne Simien, the Big 12 player of the year.

"It's tough when the Big 12 tournament is your goal as a freshman and you don't get a chance to cut down the nets," the 6-foot-8 senior said.

Graham, who set a Big 12 record this season by hitting 39 foul shots in a row, sank two to give the Cowboys a three-point lead with 10 seconds left. Then Alex Galindo missed a long three-pointer at the buzzer.

three-pointer at the buzzer.
"It was a set play," said Aaron
Miles, the senior point guard for
Kansas (23-6). "I knew they
would be on J.R. (Giddens) tight.
Galindo got the shot but it didn't

go in."

Besides the right to meet Texas

Besides the right to meet Texas

Tech in the title game, the teams
may have been playing for the
right to go to Oklahoma City next
week for the opening round of the
NCAA tournament. It's the closest first-round site for either

est first-round site for either school and an easy drive for fans. "I would be disappointed if we don't go to Oklahoma City," Sutton said. "We have gone East 11 of the last 12 times."

Kansas coach Bill Self, an Oklahoma native, was still hopeful. "We should both be there," he

"We should both be there," he said. "But whether or not it plays out that way I don't know because they might put [Oklahoma] there, too. I don't think they'll put all three of us there."

The Cowboys (23-6) missed 12 of their first 14 shots but then got hot and took the lead for good when Daniel Bobik stole the ball on Kansas' end of the court and drove for a layup that made it

JamesOn Curry had 12 points for the Cowboys and John Lucas, Bobik and Ivan McFarlin each had 11.

Graham, fouled deliberately with 41.4 seconds left, hit both foul shots for a 75-70 lead. Simien answered with a soft, feathery hook shot and shaved the lead back to three.

"This is what college basketball is all about," Graham said. "Just getting the opportunity to come out and play is wonderful."

Lucas, fouled with 22.8 seconds to go, hit one of two and the Cowboys led 76-72 until Giddens sank the Jayhawks' fifth straight three-pointer.

With 11.8 seconds to go and a one-point lead, the Cowboys inbounded the ball to Graham, who was fouled immediately.

Texas Tech 69, No. 17 Oklahoma 63: Ronald Ross scored 28 points and Jarrius Jackson had 22, both career highs, to help Texas Tech (20-9) reach its first Big 12 tournament final. Terrell Everett led the top-seeded Sooners (24-7) with 15 points.

The Red Raiders drew 27 fouls and shot 24-for-33 from the line, compared to Oklahoma's 11-for-19. Ross was 10-for-11 and was perfect until he missed the front end of a two-shot foul in the closing seconds.



Oklahoma State's John Lucas, left, and Jeff Johnson, right, jump for joy after the Cowboys' 78-75 victory over Kansas in a semifinal game of the Big 12 tournament. OSU faces Texas Tech in the final.

No. 1 Illini make sure to win one for Weber

BY JIM PAUL

CHICAGO — Illinois had its 14-point lead shaved to two with 6 minutes to go. But the top-ranked Illini weren't going to let this

game slip away.

They wouldn't add a loss to coach Bruce Weber's tragic week-

Illinois (31-1) held Minnesota without a field goal for the final 4.05 on the way to a 64-56 victory Saturday and a trip to the Big Ten tournament championship game for the third straight season. The Illini will face Wisconsin, a 59-56 winner over Iowa.

winner over iowa.

The Illini also tied a school record for victories, matching the mark set by the 1988-89 Flyin' Illini team that went to Final Four.

"We say we're a family. That's what we emphasized all year," said forward James Augustine, who was the first to put an arm around his coach after the game. "We're all with him"

Weber coached the game less than 24 hours after his mother, 81-year-old Dawn Weber, died at a Chicago hospital following emergency heart surgery. He said he never doubted he'd be on

"I'm proud of the kids and happy to be back in the championship (game)," Weber said. "I don't want to be the story. The

kids have got to be the story."
The Illini wore black bands on their jerseys in memory of Dawn Weber, and the emotional drain showed early in what became a somewhat sloppy performance. They committed a season-high 23 turnovers and shot just 36 per-

cent from the field.

"We were probably feeling a little too emotional," said Luther
Head, who led Illinois with 14
points. "We're feeling the same

way he's feeling."

The Illini got going midway through the half and took a 14-13 lead on the first of Head's four three-pointers. A 14-0 run turned a 13-8 deficit into a 22-13 lead and

Illinois led 30-26 at halftime. Head's fourth three-pointer put the Illini ahead 49-35 with 12 minutes left. But Illinois missed its next four shots and committed three turnovers, allowing Minne-

sota to go on a 16-4 run. Vincent Grier and Aaron Robinson scored all 16 points.

Deron Williams broke Illinois' drought with a three-pointer, but Robinson hit a three-pointer and Grier dunked to make it 53-51.

Roger Powell Jr. converted a three-point play that pushed the Illini lead back to five, and the Gophers managed just three free throws down the stretch. No. 23 Wisconsin 59, lowa

56: Alando Tucker banked in the biggest shot of Wisconsin's season, hitting a running three-pointer at the buzzer to stun Iowa.

Tucker finished with 20 points on 7-for-12 shooting and Zach Morley added 17 for the Badgers (22-7). Greg Brunner led Iowa (21-11) with 18 points.

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Thanks to Hayes' late plays, Kentucky in SEC title game

BY PAUL NEWBERRY The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Chuck Hayes threw his arms in the air and let out a scream. Tubby Smith pumped his fist furiously as he ran along the sideline. Kentucky usually takes the Southeastern Conference tournament in stride, but the Wildcats couldn't contain themselves.

This one was worth celebratng.

Hayes spun into the lane to hit the winning shot with 7.9 seconds left in overtime Saturday, giving the No. 4 Wildcats a 79-78 victory over LSU and a chance to play for another SEC tournament title.

"Certainly, it gives us the belief that we can win close games," said Smith, the Wildcats' coach. Brandon Bass hit a miraculous

Brandon Bass hit a miraculous shot for the Tigers as the buzzer sounded in regulation, forcing overtime with the score tied at 70. "I thought the game was over,"

Bass said. "I really thought we were down one. It was a big shot, but it would have been bigger if we had won the game."

LSU built a five-point lead in the extra period, but it wasn't enough to hold off the Wildcats and the weight of history.

Kentucky (25-4) will be going for its third straight SEC tournament title, its 11th in 14 years and 26th overall. LSU (20-9) has won it only once, way back in 1980. After its last two championships, the Wildcats didn't even bother cutting down the nets. They may call for the scissors if they beat Florida on Sunday—especially with the way they survived the semifinals.

Patrick Sparks hit a crucial three-pointer from the corner to spark the Kentucky comeback, which was helped along when LSU's Glen Davis missed two free throws with 39 seconds left.

Kelenna Azubuike, who led the Wildcats with 19 points, drew a foul and made the first of two free throws to pull Kentucky to 78-77. When the second attempt clanked off the rim, Hayes swooped in to grab the offensive rebound.

Kentucky called timeout and set up a play for its senior leader, even though he had made only 2 of 9 shots. The Wildcats worked the ball inside to Hayes, who spun around the 300-pound Davis and banked in a shot with his left

"The whole game I had been pausing to see what the defense was going to do," Hayes said. "But that time, I just told myself to make a quick move, get it up on the rim and give it a chance to go in "

Sparks set a crucial pick that gave Hayes room to operate around the massive Davis.

"I should have felt the screen," the LSU freshman said. "I should have felt the pick and gotten over there." The Tigers still had time, but Tack Minor drove wildly into the lane and lost the ball while trying to put up the shot. Appropriately, Hayes grabbed it as the horn sounded to send the Wildcats to the title game against Florida.

"Chuck is the key and the glue," Smith said.

Nearly everyone in the Georgia Dome crowd of 24,214 was wearing blue. "This Kentucky following is

amazing," LSU coach John Brady said. "For our team to come in here and play well in this environment has to help our team out, even in losing."

Florida 68, No. 20 Alabama 62: David Lee scored 20 points and Matt Walsh hit six free throws in the final 17 seconds as Florida held on to reach the championship game for the second straight year.

Walsh finished with 17 points, Anthony Roberson had 13 and Brewer added 10 for Florida (22-7). Kennedy Winston led Alabama (24-7) with 19 points. Florida faced its own history as

well as Kentucky in Sunday's final. The Gators have never won the SEC tournament, losing four times in the final — including 89-73 to Kentucky last year.

Then again, Florida did beat Kentucky in the regular-season finale last weekend, pulling off a 53-52 upset in Gainesville, Fla.

Georiga Tech victory 'no upset'

Yellow Jackets top Heels, to face Duke in ACC final

WASHINGTON — Rashad McCants followed his North Carolina teammates through the tunnel toward the locker room, wearing a stunned look while biting the front of his white jersey.

The second-ranked Tar Heels had just

lost 78-75 to Georgia Tech in the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament semifinals Saturday after McCants missed a three-pointer that would have forced over-

The junior guard let out a groan and let the jersey fall from his teeth.
"You know," he said with a sigh, "that

was supposed to go in." The top-seeded Tar Heels were supposed to win their first ACC title since

1998, but that didn't happen, either. Will Bynum scored a career-high 35 points, and the fifth-seeded Yellow Jackets advanced to the ACC championship game

Sunday against Duke with a stunning upset of the league's regular-season champions. Did somebody say upset?

"This was no upset out here today. I want to make that point clear," Georgia Tech coach Paul Hewitt said. "These are two great teams, and our team, being a team that I think has accomplished a lot at hig moments to be written off was kind of amusing to me "

After Bynum capped his magnificent performance by making two foul shots with nine seconds left, McCants' with nine seconds left, McCants' three-point try bounced off the front of the rim and into the waiting arms of Tech's Jarred Jack, who clutched the ball until

The Yellow Jackets celebrated, but with a good measure of restraint.

"It's not a surprise, it's not a shock to us," Jack said. "We knew we could come in here and compete with any team in our conference, as well as any team in the coun-

Thanks to Bynum, whose 35 points is the most by a Georgia Tech player in the ACC tournament, surpassing the 33 by Mark Price against Virginia in 1983.

"It was hig but I would rather have Scored two and won anyway," a teary-eyed Bynum said at the postgame news conference. "As long as we get the win, that's

what counts.' At that point, Hewitt interjected, "It was fun watching the 35, I'll tell you."

Georgia Tech, which lost to North Carolina by 22 during the regular season, will play for the league title against fifth-ranked Duke, which beat North Carolina State 76-69 in the other semifinal.

J.J. Redick carried the Blue Devils to their seventh consecutive final with a snectacular individual effort, making seven three-pointers and scoring 35 points

A day earlier, Redick missed 11 of his first 12 shots and finished 4-for-17 against Virginia, but his teammates picked up the slack. Their efforts certainly were appreciated in this one even if Redick needed little help.

"Just having the mentality to take the next shot," he said. "I didn't really dwell on it. I was 4-for-17. I knew eventually my shots would fall."

He surpassed Ronnie Mayer's previous school record of 34 points for an ACC tour-

nament game, set in the 1955 semifinals. "J.J.'s performance was one of the best ever," Blue Devils coach Mike Krzyzewski said

Redick made the most of a quick reminder from his coach to score at least 30 points for the fourth time this season.

"Coach just talked to me about thinking of whoever is guarding me." Redick said "To set my shot up before I ever took it. I did that Shelden Williams added 15 points and

Daniel Ewing had 14 for the third-seeded Blue Devils, who held on despite missing six free throws in a row down the stretch



North Carolina's Jawad Williams reacts after the Tar Heels lost to Georgia Tech.

The Wolfpack (19-13) couldn't take advantage. Ilian Evtimov and Engin Atsur each missed threes in the final minute that would have cut the deficit to three, and N.C. State was left hoping its spirited effort during the first two days was enough to se-cure an at-large bid to the NCAA tourna-

"I think we proved some people wrong this tournament," guard Cameron Bennerman said. "It feels good to perform well For me, it's a hard pill to swallow right now, because I thought we could have won. But I'm trying to put it behind me and see what we have for the NCAAs.'

Conference tournaments

America East

Championship Saturday Vermont 80, Northeastern 57

Atlantic Coast

North Carolina 88, Clemson 81 Georgia Tech 73, Virginia Tech 54 N.C. State 81, Wake Forest 65 Duke 76, Virginia 64 Saturday Georgia Tech 78, North Carolina 75 Duke 76, N.C. State 69 Sunday Duke 69, Georgia Tech 64

Atlantic 10

Saint Joseph's 73, Xavier 68 George Washington 77, Temple 58 Championship Saturday George Washington 76, Saint Joseph's 67

Big East

Friday
West Virginia 78, Villanova 76
Syracuse 67, Connecticut 63
Championship
Saturday
Syracuse 68, West Virginia 59

Illinois ve Wiscon

Big Ten

Illinois 68, Northwestern 51 Minnesota 71, Indiana 55 Iowa 71, Michigan State 69 Wisconsin 60, Ohio State 49 Saturday

Big 12

Friday Oklahoma 83, Missouri 79 Texas Tech 64, Iowa State 56 Kansas 80, Kansas State 67 Oklahoma State 87, Colorado 8 Saturday Texas Tech 69, Oklahoma 63 Oklahoma State 78, Kansas 75 Sunday Texas Tech vs. Oklahoma State

Big West

Friday
Pacific 63, Cal State Northridge 61
Utah State 84, Cal State Fullerton 77 Championship Saturday Utah State 65, Pacific 52

Conference USA

Friday
Louisville 74, Alabama-Birmingham 64
Memphis 81, South Florida 68
Championship
Saturday
11-75 Memphis 74

Mid-American

Priday
Ohio 63, Miami (Ohio) 56
Buffalo 75, Western Michigi
Championshi
Saturday
Ohio 80, Buffalo 79 (OT)

Mid-Eastern Athletic

Priday
Delaware St. 61, South Carolina St. 48
Hampton 62, Coppin State 50
Championship
Saturday
Delaware State 55, Hampton 53

Mountain West

Friday
Utah 73, UNLV 67
New Mexico 77, San Diego State 67
Championship
Saturday
New Mexico 60, Utah 56

Pacific-10

Friday Arizona 90, Oregon State 59 Washington 66, Stanford 63 Championship Saturday Washington 81, Arizona 72

Patriot League

Championship Friday Bucknell 61, Holy Cross 57

Southeastern

Alabama 69, Mississippi 52 Florida 80, Mississippi 52 Florida 80, Mississippi 5tate 64 Kentucky 76, Tennessee 62 LSU 89, Auburn 58 Saturday orida 68, Alabama 62 entucky 79, LSU 78, OT

Sunda Florida 70, Kentucky 53

Southland

Southwestern Athletic

Alabama State 54, Southern U. 50
Alabama A&M 74, Jackson State 56
Championship Sunday Alabama A&M 72, Alabama State 53

Western Athletic

Friday Texas-El Paso 85, Rice 77 Saturday Texas-El Paso 91, Boise State 78

New Mexico no longer on bubble

The Associated Press

DENVER - The selection committee can stop worrying about New Mexico. A lot of NCAA tournament teams out there probably ought to start, though

The Lobos made their invitation to the NCAAs a formality Saturday night, getting 28 points, 11 rebounds and four straight clutch free throws from Danny Granger in a 60-56 victory over No. 15 Utah in the Mountain West Conference championship game.

Playing as though their season was at stake — even though it probably wasn't by this point the second-seeded Lohos (26-6) jumped on Andrew Bogut and the top-seeded Utes (27-5) early and kept them an arm's distance away most of the way.

And when Bogut (19 points, 16 rebounds) triggered a 9-2 run that gave the Utes a 49-48 lead with 3:35 left — their first since midway through the first half -New Mexico responded. Alfred Neale slammed home a miss for a 50-49 lead. David Chiotti made a move that felled Bogut and led to

an easy layup.

After two Utah free throws made it 52-51, Granger made two huge baskets, forcing a shot over a defender under the basket for one score, then dribbling to the baseline and shaking loose from defender Marc Jackson for an onen 15 footer that he buried for a 56-51 lead.

Bogut responded with three-pointer with 21 seconds left, but Granger countered by sinking four free throws down the stretch to keep it a two-possession

When the buzzer sounded, center Bambale Osby sprinted off the bench and did two handsprings cheerleader style — then the Lobos went into the crowd to cele-

Conference finals

brate along with the thousands who followed them up Interstate 25 to watch them earn their first NCAA bid since 1999. The win capped off a day that began when New Mexico beat Utah for the women's championship.

For the men, it was the ninth straight win and 12th in the past 13. Two of those wins have come against Utah, the league's regu-lar-season champ, which will almost certainly earn an at-large bid for its fourth straight trip to the NCAAs.

But the Mountain West's bigest threat could very well be the Lobos, who won their first conference tourney since 1996 - when Dave Bliss was coach and they played in the Western Athletic Conference.

They were on the tournament bubble because of their low RPI rating (85th) and ultra-weak strength of schedule (298), but have more than put to rest all those misgivings over a torrid stretch that began with a win over UNLV at The Pit on Jan. 29.

Granger scored 18 of his points in the first half and well outplayed Bogut, who was "held" to just 19 points by a defense that fronted him with Chiotti, then brought help from the back-side forward

Despite that success, the Lobos couldn't build their lead into double digits and when the Utes shut down Granger through most of the second half, it was clear this one would come down to the wire

It did — but it was Granger, not Bogut, who wound up holding the trophy and being named the tour-nament's Most Valuable Player.

The Lobos, who were serenad-

ed by chants of "Never Rated!" from Utah fans in the pregame warmups, stayed around to cut down the nets. And by then, it was Lobo fans doing the chanting shouting "Overrated!" "NIT!" to the Utes.

Western Athletic Conference

UTEP 91, Boise St. 78: At Reno. Nev., Filiberto Rivera scored 17 of his 32 points in the last 6 minutes to help Texas El-Paso hold off Boise State.

John Tofi added 21 points Omar Thomas had 15 and Giovanni St. Amant 13 for the second-seeded Miners (27-7), who shot 67 percent from the field in the second half to secure an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament

Coby Karl had 24 points for the eighth-seeded Broncos (16-18)

George Washington 76, Saint Joseph's 67: At Cincinnati — T.J. Thompson led a late 12-point run to help George Washington (22-7) win its first Atlantic 10 tour-

nament title - and first NCAA berth in six years. Pat Carroll had 25 points for Saint Joseph's (19-11).

Mid-American

Ohio 80, Buffalo 79, OT: CLEVELAND - Freshman Leon Williams made a layup in the

final second as Ohio, down by 19 points in the second half rallied to win the Mid-American Conference championship for its first NCAA berth since 1994. Williams finished with a ca-

reer-high 29 points and 15 re-bounds and was selected the named the tournament MVP. Jeremy Fears added 21 points for the Bobcats (21-10).

Turner Battle had 22 points for the Bulls (22-9).

Psst! Huskies win

Whispering campaign leads to shouts of joy as Washington tops Arizona for Pac-10 title

44 You've got to keep

telling the other guus.

'He doesn't want to

pass you the ball,' and

that's what we did. A

couple whispers ... it

kills the other team's

confidence.

Nate Robinson

Washington guard

BY BETH HARRIS

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Little Nate Robinson and 14th-ranked Washington kept whispering to Salim Stoudamire's Arizona teammates.

Salim Stoudamire's Arizona teammates.

At the buzzer, the Huskies were the ones shouting with joy at winning the school's first

Pac-10 tournament title.

Robinson scored six points — his only points of the second half — in the final 67 seconds as Washington upset of No. 8 Arizona 81-72 on Saturday despite a brilliant 37-point performance by the Wildcats' Damon

Stoudamire
Robinson defended
Stoudamire and compared it to playing without his hands. "You just
got to run around and
chase him," he said.
"We said, 'He's going to
score, but we can't let
the role players get their
15 (points) and 8 (repounds)."

"You've got to keep telling the other guys, 'He doesn't want to pass you the ball,' and that's what we did," said Robinson, a sly smile on his face. "A couple whispers ... it kills the other team's confidence."

Robinson joked that he told Stoudamire he'd have to score 100 to beat the Huskies. Asked if he really said that, Robinson replied, "No, because he would have gone for 50."

The Huskies (27-5) closed the game with a 19-4 run to earn the conference's automatic bid to the NCAA tournament, although Arizona (27-6) is assured of a berth, too.

Washington coach Lorenzo Romar com pared the game to a prize fight.

"One punch after another," he said. "Arizona brings out the best in us because for so long they have been the best."

The Huskies won three tournament games

by a combined 17 points; Arizona won its first two by a total of 56 points.

"No question the team that played the hardest won the ballgame," Arizona coach Lute Olson said. "They're one of the few teams that can send five people to the offensive boards and are quick enough to recover defensively." Robinson and Tre Simmons led the Huskies with 18 points each and Jamaal Williams

added 16.
Stoudamire, who finished two off the tournament scoring record set by UCLA's Reggie Miller, hit seven three-pointers and the teams

combined for 17 three-pointers — both tournament records. He was selected tourney MVP

MVP.

But he couldn't help the Wildcats to a record fifth tourney title. They are 4-1 in championship games.

"I wanted to be the guy that everyone looks up to, but at the same time, we got to stay within the team concept," Stoudamire said. "We got away from that." The Husbe

The Huskies scored six straight and tied it at 70 on two free throws by Bobby Jones after Chris

Rodgers was called for holding with 3:34 remaining.
Arizona's Channing Frye scored inside before Will Conroy hit his fourth three-pointer of the half for a 73-72 lead with 2:15 to go.

of the half for a 73-72 lead with 2:15 to go. Frye finished with 14 points. With Frye and Stoudamire tightly guarded, Hassan Adams missed a jumper from the top

of the key.
The 5-foot-9 Robinson fearlessly drove inside and scored to put the Huskies ahead 75-72 with 1:07 left.

"Nate always comes up big when the game is on the line," Olson said. Stoudamire tripped and fell in front of Arizo-



Arizona coach Lute Olson watched in disbelief as his team squandered a six-point lead in the Pac-10 title game. Washington won 81-72.

na's bench, losing the ball out of bounds with 46 seconds left.

Asked if he was tripped, Stoudamire said, "I think so, but obviously the ref didn't. You can't let referees decide the game. We should've been ahead by a lot more."

Olson, with a smile on his face, said he also believed Stoudamire was tripped.

"But who am I to question that call? That one call didn't cost us the game," Olson said. Then Stoudamire fouled Robinson, who made both free throws, for a 77-72 lead with 34 seconds left. Simmons made two free throws and Stoudamire's jumper bounced off the rim with 26 seconds to go.

Robinson stole the ball at midcourt, was fouled and made both free throws with 19 seconds left

Aggies end Pacific's 22-game win streak

BY ANDREW DALTON
The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Utah State left nothing to chance this year. Left out of the NCAA tournament last season, the Aggies earned the Big West's automatic bid Saturday night with a 65-52 victory over No. 18 Pacific in the

earned the Big West's automatic bid Saturday night with a 65-52 victory over No. 18 Pacific in the championship game of the conference tournament. Utah State (24-7) ended Pacific's 22-game winning streak to se-

ic's 22-game winning streak to secure its fifth NCAA tournament berth — and its fifth Big West championship — in eight years. "All I know is we're in." Agrice

championship — in eight years.

"All I know is we're in," Aggies
coach Stew Morrill said. "That's
all that matters right now."

Big West freshman of the year Jaycee Carroll led Utah State with 22 points, shooting 9-for-19 from the field, and Spencer Nelson added 16 points.

Top-seeded Pacific (26-3) entered with the nation's longest winning streak and had won 34 straight against Big West teams.

The Tigers' lowest-scoring game of the season featured a 10½-minute spell without a field goal in the second half.

Utah State went on a 19-2 run midway through the second half, capped by Carroll's short jumper that put the Aggies up 49-37 with 7:32 to play.

"Coach always says the advantage goes to the aggressor," Carroll said. "I came out tonight and tried to get them back on their heels."

"We had no answer for Carroll," Pacific coach Bob Thomason said. "They deserved to win." The Tigers' leading scorer, Guillaume Yango, scored just six

points and Big West player of the year David Doubley was held to eight.

The Aggies, who led by as many as 16 in the final minutes, lost twice to Pacific during the

lost twice to Pacific during the regular season, once in overtime and the other time by one point after blowing a six-point lead in the final 30 seconds.

"We wanted a chance to play

them again and we got our wish,' Nelson said. "We took care of business."

Pacific led 29-28 at halftime and scored the first four points of the second half. Carroll made a three-pointer to pull Utah State to 35-33, and the Aggies took the lead at 36-35 with a short jumper with 15:38 to go.

The Tigers had a scoreless stretch in the first half nearly as long as their second-half drought. After Jasko Korajkic made a three-pointer to start the game, the Tigers went more than 9 minutes without a basket.

The Tigers were expected to get an at-large tournament bid even with a loss Saturday.

"We deserve to go," Thomason said. "No team in the country is 13-1 on the road. Why wouldn't they want us in there?"

Syracuse ends W.Virginia's Big East run

BY JIM O'CONNELL

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — There was no wild celebrating. The nets are still on the rims at Madison

Square Garden.
No. 16 Syracuse won its first Big East tournament championship since 1992 on Saturday night with a 68-59 victory over West Virginia. Yet the postgame celebration wasn't far off that for a

"This was a great tournament win for us, especially for our seniors; to be able to win this thing was a tremendous accomplishment," Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim said. "I'm real happy for

quality regular-season win.

Then why no celebration?

"I don't know," he said.
"Maybe it's unfortunate but my
mind-set has probably changed
— and maybe it shouldn't, but it
has. In my mind-set, the only
thing that matters is next week."

Hakim Warrick had 20 points and 13 rebounds for the Orange, who should be seeded from third to fifth in the NCAA tournament that starts next week. Warrick, the conference player of the year, was selected the tournament MVP.

The last time Warrick and his teammates cut down the nets was in New Orleans after the 2003 NCAA championship game.

"That's something you want to save for the Final Four, a national championship," he said. "This is a really big thing, a big win, but we definitely want to be cutting down the nets in St. Louis."

The Big East tournament title was something Warrick wanted once he decided to return for his senior season.

"When I came back I thought of this," he said. "Big East player of the year, Big East tournament champion and MVP. I couldn't end my career any better, couldn't have scripted it any better."

The third-seeded Orange (27-6) won their fourth Big East tournament title in their 12th championship game appearance.

The loss ended a history-mak-

ing run for West Virginia (21-10), the first No. 8 seed to reach the championship game. No team had ever won four games to take the title and the Mountaineers fell one game short of winning their first conference championship since winning the Atlantic 10 in 1984.

West Virginia had never gotten past the quarterfinal round before this season. The Mountaineers got past the quarterfinals this time by beating top-seeded Boston College.

"I've been fortunate enough to have similar times in my life but not four times on this stage," West Virginia coach John Beilein said. "But these kids are going to remember this forever."

Syracuse again used its 2-3 zone defense and Warrick's inside presence to take a big lead. The Orange dominated second-seeded Connecticut in the semifinals that way but just like that game they also let a big lead

"Our defense both nights was outstanding," Boeheim said. "I just thought defensively we were really good and offensively we did the things we had to." Syracuse led Connecticut by 21

systause red connection by 21 points with 12:47 to play and wound up winning 67-63. The Orange opened the second half Saturday night with a 10-2 run to take a 51-33 lead over the Mountaineers with 16:12 left.

But West Virginia finally started hitting three-pointers — the Mountaineers were 35-for-74 the first three games — and the lead was down 55-50 with 8:20 left.

Josh Pace tipped in a miss by Warrick with 4:57 left to make it 59-50 — the first Syracuse points not scored by Warrick in 12 minutes — and West Virginia didn't get closer than eight points the rest of the way.

Gerry McNamara added 16 points and Pace had 13 for the Orange, whose other titles came in 1981 and 1988.

Tyrone Sally had 13 points for the Mountaineers. Mike Gansey, who made two free throws with 0.2 seconds left to beat Villanova in the semifinals, and Joe Herber each added 11 points.

SPORTS



Edwards' flat tire helps Martin to 47th series victory, Page 36

McGwire linked to '90s probe

Report: He was not target of federal steroid investigation

NEW YORK - Mark McGwire's name was mentioned several times during a federal steroids investigation in the early 1990s but he was not the target of the probe nor was any evidence collected against him, the Daily News reported Sunday

McGwire. Jose Canseco and five current players along with four baseball executives were subpoenaed to testify at a congressional hearing on steroids Thursday. The commissioner's office has said it will fight the subpoenas. Canseco says he will testify and has asked for immunity so he can answer all questions; McGwire and some of the other players haven't said whether they'll show in Washington.

Two dealers caught in the federal investi-

man named Curtis Wenzlaff gave Canseco and McGwire illegal anabolic steroids.

A spokesman for McGwire, Marc Altieri, told the newspaper the former player does not remember meeting Wenzlaff.

"We're not going to comment on anything at this time," Altieri said, "but we be-lieve one should consider the sources of

such allegations. Canseco said Sunday on ABC's "This Week" he met Wenzlaff in the 1980s and worked out with him but did not buy ste-

roids from him When asked by the newspaper, Wenzlaff declined to comment about McGwire but

said he did give Canseco steroids. "I supplied a bunch of players, but I'm zlaff told the Daily News. "Jose's different

because he opened the door with his book." Canseco said in his recently published autobiography that he, McGwire and Giambi shot steroids together in a bathroom

stall at Oakland Coliseum. McGwire and Giambi have denied Canseco's charges.

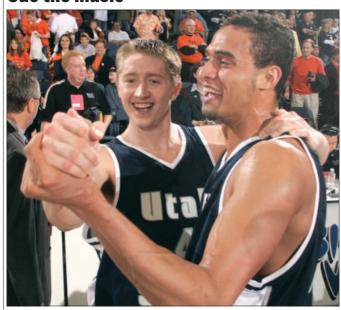
Canseco said Sunday he thinks a congressional investigation of steroid use in baseball is a good idea and more people should be called to testify.

"If Major League Baseball wanted in the past to completely just sever steroids from Major League Baseball, they would have done it. Obviously, there was so much money to be made," Canseco told "This



Evidence wasn't collected against Mark McGwire during a federal probe, but his name reportedly was mentioned repeatedly.

Cue the music





At left, Utah State's Nate Harris (left) and Cass Matheus dance after the Aggies earned an automatic NCAA tournament berth by beating No. 18 Pacific in the final of the Big West tournament in Anaheim, Calif. Above, New Mexico coach Ritchie McKay (front) jumps in front of his players for a team photograph after the Lobos beat Utah 60-56 to claim the Mountain West Conference tournament title in Denver. See conference tournament coverage

